



**Friday**  
JANUARY 28, 2011

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A Chicago Tribune  
publication

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CHRIS SWEDA/  
TRIBUNE PHOTOS

GET A  
HAWKIN'  
BODY

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# FOUR PLAY

Gloves come off now that mayoral ballot is ready for voters **6-7**



# best bets

By Jessica Gallart

jgallart@tribune.com



## For The Roots fans

Smart Bar, 3730 N. Clark St.  
773-549-0203

Can't get enough of The Roots on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon"? Say hello to the drummer, Questlove, at Metro's subterranean DJ bubble as he spins a set with locals Major Taylor and Intel. 10 p.m. Friday. \$20.

## For skiing enthusiasts

Faith & Whiskey,  
1365 W. Fullerton  
Ave. 773-248-9119

Break out the Hammer pants and fluorescent wind-breakers for the Awesome '80s Aspen Ski Lodge Party. Go back in time with DJs spinning the decade's greatest hits, themed drink specials and '80s flicks playing in the background. Enter the costume



Polar Plunge  
TRIBUNE FILE

contest for a cash prize. 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. No cover.

## For movie marathoners

Norris University Center,  
McCormick Auditorium,  
1999 Campus Drive, Evanston

Don't miss this year's B-Fest 24-hour movie marathon, featuring screenings of the best of the B-movie genre. Watch gems such as "Plan 9 from Outer Space" and "The Wizard

of Speed and Time," which, of course, includes a sing-along. 6 p.m. Friday. \$35. [b-fest.com](http://b-fest.com)

## For wannabe game show contestants

Chopin Theatre,  
1543 W. Division St. 773-769-3832

Physical challenge! Compete for prizes in the interactive "Game Show Show ... and Stuff," featuring trivia games and musical, comedy and dance performances. 11 p.m. Saturday. \$10-\$25.

## For arctic adventurers

Oak Street Beach,  
1000 N. Lake Shore Drive

Show the cold who's boss by taking a dip in Lake Michigan during the Lakeview Polar Bear Club's 10th annual Polar Plunge. All proceeds benefit local families in need. Don't miss the all-you-can-drink after-party (\$30) at Sedgwick's (1935 N. Sedgwick St.). 11:30 a.m. Saturday. \$20-\$30. [lakeviewpolarbearclub.com](http://lakeviewpolarbearclub.com)

## For trivia nerds

Earwax Café,  
1561 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Think you know Andre the Giant? Test your knowledge at a trivia night about the legendary wrestler, inspired by the new life-size portrait of him created by local artist Darick Maasen and installed at the café. The winner is awarded with an Andre the Giant trophy, custom-made by Maasen. Capacity is limited, so arrive early. 7 p.m. Sunday. Food purchase required: [facebook.com/darickmaasen](http://facebook.com/darickmaasen)



31<sup>24</sup>

## TODAY'S FORECAST

I guess we can live with this



SAT.

33

22  
Wind kinda sucks



MON.

24

16  
So by "chance" of snow ...



SUN.

28

17  
Feels like a C+ effort



TUE.

23

10  
... you mean "blizzard"?

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REUTERS

## Bird mystery!

The mass deaths of thousands of red-winged blackbirds in Arkansas was caused by “blunt force trauma,” according to a new report by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Laboratory tests were conducted on 13 of the birds that were part of the group that flew into buildings and died in a neighborhood in Beebe, Ark., 40 miles northeast of Little Rock.

“The tests ruled out bacteria, viruses, heavy metals, pesticides and avicides [chemicals used to kill birds] as causes of death,” the commission said in a statement.

These results confirmed preliminary tests that were conducted after the incident. The tests revealed hemorrhaging “consistent with blunt trauma,” according to the report released Wednesday.

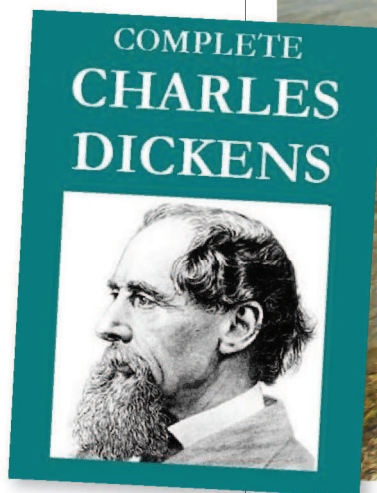
## Dickens mystery!

Charles Dickens’ unfinished work “The Mystery Of Edwin Drood” is to be given a new ending in a BBC adaptation for TV.

Dickens died in 1870 before he could finish the story of the title character’s mysterious disappearance and resolve Drood’s relationships with fiancée Rosa Bud and his uncle, the choirmaster John Jasper, who is in love with Rosa.

Writer Gwyneth Hughes has completed the tale for a BBC drama, which will be screened later this year, the broadcaster said Wednesday.

Before Dickens died after suffering a stroke, he gave his friend and biographer John Forster a brief outline of the story, for which a number of writers have tried to supply an ending.



# Case closed

## Mysterious news stories finally meet their conclusions

This was a good week to be a news sleuth. At least three stories that made waves for their baffling beginnings were explained before the day was out Thursday. Here’s a look at the facts behind recent head-scratching headlines. **FROM NEWS SERVICES**



GETTY IMAGES

## Piano mystery!

A 16-year-old looking to beef up his college application says he’s responsible for the grand piano that mysteriously showed up on a sandbar in Miami’s Biscayne Bay.

The Miami Herald reports that Nicholas Harrington—son of “Burn Notice” production designer J. Mark Harrington—planned to make a promotional video using the piano.

The plan went awry on New Year’s Eve when partygoers lowered it into a canal and set it on fire. The next day, the family placed

it on a 22-foot fishing boat and dumped it on the sandbar. The Herald story links to a video that shows Nicholas Harrington on the boat with the piano.

The teen says he is “super happy” about the attention the piano has gotten in recent days.

“I liked the idea of an anonymous piano out there, no explanation to it,” he said, adding that he viewed it as art for a portfolio in a future college application.

Harrington shared home video from before the holidays, when he and his father moved the baby grand piano from his grandmother’s

house to his, on a boat.

Weeks later, he, his father, and two of his friends decided to place it out on the sandbar.

Authorities have no immediate plans to charge the teenager. Luis Espinoza, spokesman for Miami-Dade County’s Department of Environmental Resources Management, said his agency is hoping to coordinate with the family to have the piano removed.

“We’re trying to work with them, contact them and ask them to please go out there and do the right thing,” Espinoza said.





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**page  
four**

**LENOX  
MAGEE**  
[ritaredeye@tribune.com](mailto:ritaredeye@tribune.com)

## We can do better than civil unions

Ever since I first heard Beyonce's "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" in fall 2008, I've been scouting out the perfect rings and planning my dream wedding—even if it meant unleashing my inner Groomzilla from time to time.

Now that experience is closer than ever for same-sex couples in Illinois.

At a historic ceremony Monday in Chicago, Gov. Quinn will sign a measure that allows gays and lesbians to enter into civil unions, beginning June 1.

You would think this law comes at the perfect time for my partner and me. It doesn't. Instead, we are planning to get married—actually married!—later this year in California. (Although California's Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriage is in effect as the courts weigh its constitutionality, we are confident it soon will be struck down.)

Sure, we could stay in Illinois and save money on airfare, hotel rooms and an elaborate out-of-town reception, but we simply don't want to settle for a civil union. Even if our marriage is not recognized by the state when we return to Illinois, we still will have a bona fide marriage certificate—and that piece of paper is important.

For anyone who thinks marriages and civil unions are the same, let me assure you they are not. Marriage is a legal status, which comes with rights and responsibilities that are recognized across cultures, countries and religions. Civil unions offer some of the same rights and responsibilities of marriage, but only on a state level.

I certainly acknowledge that civil unions afford same-sex couples (and straight couples who choose to go this route) some important rights, including the ability to visit a partner in the hospital, make medical decisions and dispose of a loved one's remains. It's a great step in the gay rights movement, but it's not enough. I want ALL of the rights, including seemingly boring ones such as the ability to file taxes jointly.

Call me greedy, but I just don't want a bullet-point version of what I can and can't do in my state-recognized relationship with my partner of five years. When I hear the words "civil union," I hear a conditional agreement with physical boundaries. Where is the romance in that?

Although I will attend Quinn's signing event Monday—it truly is a historic moment for the LGBT community—I'm not prepared to profess my undying commitment to the man I love only to compromise and accept a watered-down list of rights afforded to my straight counterparts.

So, as soon as Prop 8 is ruled unconstitutional, we are off to Cali.

I already know how I will update my Facebook status as soon as we get hitched: "Lenox Magee is married, bitches!"

**LENOX MAGEE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

### TALK TO US

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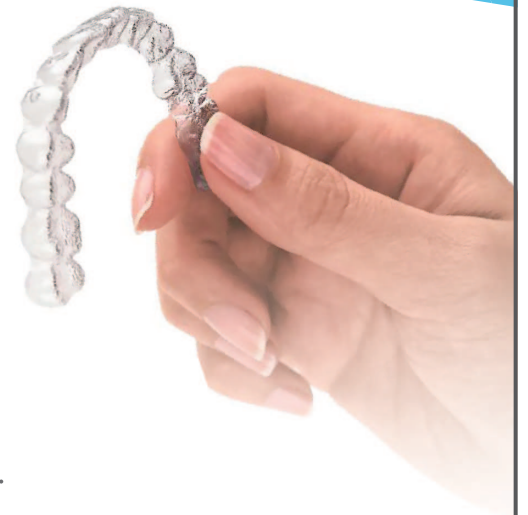


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# FULL HOUSE

## CHICAGO'S FOUR LEADING MAYORAL CANDIDATES DUKE IT OUT IN TV DEBATE

### Chicago Tribune

The first live televised debate of the Chicago mayor's race focused on ethics and taxes as candidates pitched themselves as the best option to satisfy voters who've grown weary of corruption scandals and paying more for city government.

Although the exchange came just two hours after the Illinois Supreme Court kept Rahm Emanuel on the ballot Thursday, it was as if the protracted controversy over his residency had never happened.

The weeks-long legal drama wasn't much more than a speed bump during the hour-long exchange co-sponsored by the Chicago Tribune and the City Club of Chicago and broadcast on WGN-TV.

"I do think that what's facing the city is a real debate, not about my residency, but about what the residents of the city of Chicago care about, which is the challenges on our schools and making sure they are strong, the streets are safe and our economic finances are ones that we can attract the businesses," Emanuel said during the debate.

With the legal cloud over the mayoral ballot lifted by the courts, former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun was the clear aggressor. Though she had loudly questioned the legality of Emanuel's residency, Braun said during the debate that as a lawyer that she accepted

### THE DETAILS

The debate was moderated by Bruce Dold, the Tribune's editorial page editor, and Micah Materre, a WGN News anchor and reporter. Two candidates, Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins and William "Dock" Walls, were not invited to the debate, said Tribune Editor Gerould Kern.

"We believe the debate format that includes the leading candidates is more conducive to a substantive discussion of the issues confronting the city," Kern said in a statement.

In two Tribune polls, Walls was at 2 percent and Van Pelt-Watkins was at 1 percent.



Chicago mayoral candidates Rahm Emanuel (from left), Gery Chico, Carol Moseley Braun and Miguel del Valle prepare for the start of a debate at WGN's studios Thursday. CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

the state Supreme Court's judgment. "I'm talking about the issues that affect real Chicagoans and the ruling today doesn't affect that one way or the other," she said.

Instead, Braun used the debate to attack Emanuel, a former top Clinton White House strategist and President Obama's former chief of staff, and Daley administration troubleshooter Gery Chico for having gone "from one government appointment to another" that helped them to profit as private citizens.

"There's a difference to public service when it is for the benefit of the public versus public service when it inures to the benefit of your own private pocketbook," said Braun, who was awarded an ambassadorship to New Zealand by President Clinton following her reelection loss for the Senate.

Chico, who also did stints as head of the Chicago Board of Education, the Chicago

Park District and the City Colleges of Chicago, said each time he was asked to serve, "I stepped up, and never has there been a suggestion that I did everything but pursue the public interest in each of those jobs."

Braun defended her ability to handle the city's finances despite the troubled finances of her organic food company and being late paying property taxes on her Hyde Park home five of the past six times. "I was creating jobs in the inner city with an organic triple-bottom-line company at the height of the recession," she said. She noted she was not the only one to pay property taxes late. Emanuel acknowledged his property taxes were paid late once after he moved to Washington in 2009 to join the Obama administration.

Chico, Braun and City Clerk Miguel del Valle each sought to shake voter confidence in the front-runner as they try to position

themselves to keep Emanuel from getting the 50 percent-plus-one on Feb. 22 that would end the contest and eliminate the need for an April 5 runoff among the top two vote-getters.

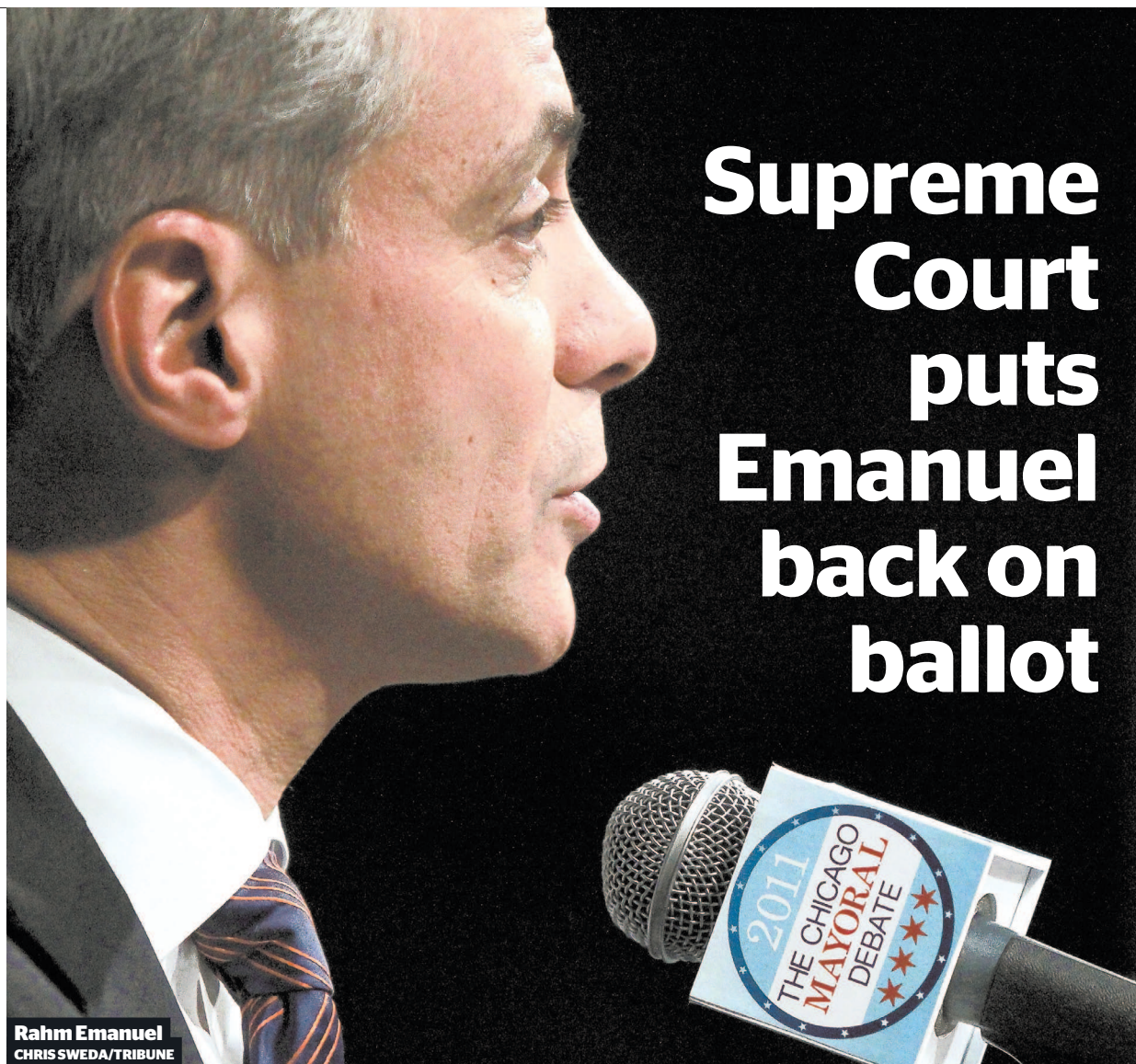
Emanuel had established himself as the clear front-runner in a Tribune/WGN poll conducted Jan. 15-19 that showed him with the support of 44 percent of city voters, compared with 21 percent for Braun, 16 percent for Chico and 7 percent for del Valle. Another 9 percent of voters were undecided.

Del Valle, who has raised the least amount of campaign cash among major contenders, criticized the multimillion-dollar campaigns of Emanuel and Chico. "We've added pay-to-influence—influence the decisions that are going to be made at City Hall."

"If [voters] want a mayor beholden to special interests and big money, I'm not their guy," del Valle said.



# Supreme Court puts Emanuel back on ballot



Rahm Emanuel  
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE

## Chicago Tribune

The ballot roller coaster for Rahm Emanuel finally stopped Thursday with the former White House chief of staff very much in the race for mayor and the Illinois Supreme Court emphatically rejecting a contentious challenge to his Chicago residency.

Within minutes of the high court ruling, Emanuel was back shaking hands with voters, taking a congratulatory call from his old boss, President Obama, and working to recapture an aura of invincibility he had tried hard to project until an appellate court ruling threatened to boot him from the Feb. 22 contest.

The debate over whether Emanuel was qualified to run began the moment he resigned his Washington post and returned to Chicago in September, only to find the tenant in his Lakeview house was unwilling to let him move back in. It ended in a flurry of legal activity this week that rendered the episode all but meaningless.

But the months-long legal fight did serve to lavish free publicity on a candidacy that needed no extra help, given Emanuel's huge lead in fundraising and his two-to-one edge over the next closest rival in a recent Tribune/WGN-TV poll.

"The voters deserved the right to make the choice of who should be mayor. And I think what the Supreme Court said was basically, in short, that the voters will make the decision

who should be mayor," Emanuel said after slapping backs and shaking hands with commuters at the Clark and Lake "L" stop near his downtown headquarters.

The abrupt end to the legal challenge came two hours before the first live televised debate between Emanuel and the three other major candidates vying to replace retiring Mayor Daley: City Clerk Miguel del Valle, former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun and Gery Chico, a former top Daley aide and Chicago schools chief. Indeed, the residency controversy was the first question that came up at the debate, sponsored by the Tribune and The City Club.

Chico, for one, appeared to nod to that reality after Thursday's ruling. "Emanuel's residency drama has made this election into a circus instead of a serious debate about the future of Chicago," Chico said in a statement. "With less than 30 days to go until election day, there is no time to waste. Game on."

The residency challenge was spearheaded by Chicago attorney Burt Odelson, who declined comment following the ruling. Odelson's case centered around the decision by Emanuel, a North Side congressman until late 2008, to rent his home when he left for Washington to serve as a top aide to President Obama.

City law says mayoral candidates must reside in Chicago for at least one year prior to the election and Emanuel didn't return until September.

## SOUND BITES

Notable quotables from Thursday's developments. **TRIBUNE**



"Emanuel's residency drama has made this election into a circus instead of a serious debate about the future of Chicago. With less than 30 days to go until election day, there is no time to waste. Game on."

—Gery Chico



"The voters deserved the right to make the choice of who should be mayor. And I think what the Supreme Court said was basically, in short, that the voters will make the decision who should be mayor."

—Rahm Emanuel



"It's time to be sensitive to what's happening out in the neighborhoods in the city of Chicago."

—Miguel del Valle



"I'm talking about the issues that affect real Chicagoans and the ruling today doesn't affect that one way or the other."

—Carol Moseley Braun



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The police pension board ruled Thursday to allow former Chicago police Cmdr. Jon Burge to keep his \$3,039.03 monthly pension. **JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE**

## BOARD: BURGE TO KEEP PENSION

### Chicago Tribune

Former Chicago police Cmdr. Jon Burge will continue receiving his pension despite being convicted of lying about alleged torture of criminal suspects, the police pension board ruled Thursday.

Four of the eight board members voted to allow Burge to keep his pension of \$3,039.03 per month, saying his conviction was not directly related to his job as a police officer. Five votes were needed to eliminate Burge's pension.

The four board members who voted for Burge to keep his pension are current or former officers elected by Chicago police: Kenneth Hauser, Michael Lazzaro, James Maloney and Michael Shields. The four who voted against Burge were appointed by Mayor Daley.

Hauser, president of the pension board, said Burge's federal conviction "had nothing to do

with things he did when he was on the job. He was retired 10 years when they convicted him. ... It wasn't on charges of what he did when he was a police officer. It was on a lie that he made in front of a civil jury."

Shields added, "This question all comes down to one issue: Did Jon Burge have any law enforcement duties when he was accused of this perjury? In 2003, he did not."

Burge was convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice. Though he wasn't directly charged with torture, prosecutors had to prove those allegations to substantiate the charges.

Thomas J. Pleines, general counsel for the Fraternal Order of Police who represented Burge, insisted the ruling was "the right one."

"The board members followed the law, and we're very grateful that Jon Burge will retain his

pension benefits," he said.

But Flint Taylor, an attorney who has represented several of Burge's alleged victims, called the decision outrageous.

"To say that he should still be paid is mind boggling," Taylor said. "It is a total slap in the face to the entire city and particularly the African-American community."

Burge was long suspected of torturing men into false confessions and was fired from the Police Department in 1993 over the alleged torture of convicted cop killer Andrew Wilson. He began collecting his pension about four years later.

In 2008, the U.S. attorney's office brought perjury and obstruction charges against Burge for denying the abuse in a 2003 civil lawsuit. A federal jury convicted him in June of lying under oath about the abuse.

### Ryan's wife in 'grave' condition

The terminally ill wife of former Gov. George Ryan went home from the hospital Thursday, but her condition is still considered "very grave," according to Ryan's attorney, former Gov. James Thompson.

### No breakthrough in O'Hare talks

The top executives from United and American Airlines met Thursday in Washington with Illinois' two senators over the carriers' dispute with the city over how to complete the massive expansion project at O'Hare, but no breakthrough was reported.

### Teen wounded in Englewood shooting

A 17-year-old boy was seriously wounded Thursday morning during an exchange of gunfire with someone in a car in Englewood. He was reported in serious condition.

### No injuries reported in Bucktown blaze

An extra-alarm fire broke out Wednesday night at a vacant Bucktown building, causing traffic problems in the area. No injuries were reported at the 2-alarm fire on the 1800 block of North Milwaukee Avenue, which started around 9 p.m., officials said.

### Guest to helm Groupon commercial

Christopher Guest—the mockumentary director behind "Waiting for Guffman" and "Best in Show"—will direct Groupon's spots for the Feb. 6 Super Bowl broadcast, a rep for Guest has confirmed. **TRIBUNE**





Dr. Gerard Francisco, chief medical officer of TIRR Memorial Hermann hospital, updates the media on the condition of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. GETTY IMAGES

## Site ranks dirtiest hotels in America

### CNN

The top 10 list that hotels want to avoid at all costs is once again grossing out travelers and prompting outrage from some of the properties on it.

TripAdvisor on Tuesday named what it calls the dirtiest hotels in America, with the unenviable top stop this year going to The Grand Resort Hotel in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Out of 224 reviews on TripAdvisor, 161 people ranked the hotel as “terrible” and 87 percent recommended against staying there.

The list can help travelers avoid making a mistake when they’re booking their next hotel, said TripAdvisor spokesman Brooke Ferencsik.

“I do think it’s surprising that there are properties that still aren’t making the grade on what most travelers would consider acceptable levels of cleanliness and hygiene,” Ferencsik said. “They clearly need to clean up their act.”

TripAdvisor’s list is based on traveler reviews rating hotel cleanliness on a scale of 1 to 5.

The top 10 dirtiest hotels in the U.S. had the lowest cleanliness ratings on TripAdvisor, the company said.

But many hoteliers say it’s unfair to use anonymous reviews to come up with such rankings.

TripAdvisor says it takes the authenticity of its reviews very seriously and uses various methods to screen the “legitimacy of the content” on the site. It asks property owners who have an issue with a traveler review to contact the company for a full investigation.



### SEE FOR YOURSELF

For the full list of TripAdvisor’s dirtiest hotels, visit [tripadvisor.com/dirtyhotels](http://tripadvisor.com/dirtyhotels).

# LONG WAY HOME

## Doctors: Giffords healing, but not out of the woods

### CNN

**HOUSTON** In the days and weeks to come, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords’ recovery from a gunshot wound to the head will be a marathon, not a sprint, doctors say.

Nearly three weeks after her brain injury, there are several acute medical issues to be concerned about, according to doctors not involved with her care.

It could take months—or longer—for her to get back to where she was before the bullet ripped through her brain.

One immediate worry is an infection in her brain, said Dr. Greg Zorman, chief of neurosurgery at Memorial Healthcare System in southern Florida.

“With gunshot wounds to the head, an

infection can still happen, even this late,” Zorman said.

The other concern is the buildup of fluid in the brain. Giffords had hydrocephalus after she was shot, a condition where an excess of cerebral-spinal fluid puts pressure on the brain.

Surgeons in Arizona implanted a drain to get rid of the fluid, and on Monday, Dr. Dong Kim, Giffords’ neurosurgeon in Houston, removed the drain, saying she no longer needed it.

Zorman said doctors will monitor Giffords closely to make sure the excess fluid doesn’t return.

Giffords on Wednesday moved from the intensive care unit to the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) at Memorial Hermann in Houston, where she’ll undergo physical, occupational and speech therapy

to try to get her brain back to where it once was.

Her doctors there are optimistic.

“It’s only been a few weeks since this happened and she has been tolerating our aggressive therapy program,” Dr. Gerard Francisco, chief medical officer at TIRR Memorial Herman, told CNN’s “American Morning.”

That program began as soon as Giffords arrived in Houston after being transferred from University Medical Center, in Tucson, Ariz., he said, and has been upgraded.

Neurosurgeons on Giffords’ team describe the brain fluid situation as “stable,” Francisco said, “but we’re going to monitor that.”

“Neural recovery is a hurry-up-and-wait situation,” Zorman said. “Recovering from that injury just takes time.”

## Does your astrological sign affect your driving?

### Chicago Tribune

Don’t call them aggressive drivers. Call them “resourceful” drivers, and that doesn’t necessarily mean they’re the worst on the road.

Virgos, known for being practical, industrious and perfectionists, were 700 percent more likely to be in a car accident in the past

year than passionate, determined Scorpios, according to Allstate Insurance, which recently compared claims data against the revised astrological calendar.

Scorpios were involved in only 1.5 percent of accidents last year, making them the best drivers on the road. The rest of the list, from

best to worst drivers, was Ophiuchus, Cancer, Aquarius, Libra, Aries, Capricorn, Gemini, Sagittarius, Pisces, Taurus, Leo and Virgo.

Allstate found that drivers whose Zodiac signs are tied to traits such as compassion, graciousness and resourcefulness had the fewest number of reported accidents.



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### Volcano erupts

**1** An aerial view shows Shinmoedake peak erupting Thursday in southern Japan. The volcanic eruption spread a wide swath of ash and rocks over parts of the country. **REUTERS**



### Twist and snout

**2** A woman and man peer through a pretzel Thursday at the International Green Week Food and Agriculture Fair in Berlin. Some 1,200 exhibitors are taking part in this year's fair. **GETTY IMAGES**



### What a wreck

**3** Vehicles are piled up Thursday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, after heavy rains flooded parts of the city. **GETTY IMAGES**

# Taco Bell has a beef with meat lawsuit

The beef about Taco Bell beef is heating up. The fast-food chain lashed out at a law firm that alleges Taco Bell doesn't use much beef in its ground beef taco filling.

"The lawsuit is bogus and filled with completely inaccurate facts," says a statement attributed to Greg Creed, president and chief concept officer of Taco Bell Corp. He said the beef is "just like the quality beef you would buy in a supermarket and prepare in your home."

Last week an Alabama law firm sued Taco Bell for using the word "beef," meaning the flesh of cattle, when referring to its taco filling.

A test on Taco Bell's "seasoned beef" showed only 35 percent of the mix was solid, said class-action lawyer W. Daniel "Dee" Miles III of the Montgomery, Ala., law firm Beasley Allen, which instigated the suit.

Overall, just 15 percent of the taco filling was identified as protein. Considering that the many other additives likely contributed protein, the actual meat content of the mix was surely even less than 15 percent, Miles surmised.

### WHAT'S IN IT?

Taco Bell released the contents of its seasoned beef as 88 percent beef, 3 percent to 5 percent water for moisture, 3 percent to 5 percent spices and 3 to 5 percent oats, starch, sugar, yeast, citric acid and other ingredients "that contribute to the quality of our product."

Not so, Taco Bell says.

"Our seasoned beef recipe contains 88 percent quality USDA-inspected beef and 12 percent seasonings, spices, water and other ingredients that provide taste, texture and moisture. The lawyers got their facts wrong," Creed said in the statement.

Taco Bell says it uses no "extenders" to add volume to the mixture.

"We take this attack on our quality very seriously and plan to take legal action against them for making false statements about our products. There is no basis in fact or reality for this suit, and we will vigorously defend the quality of our products from frivolous and misleading claims such as this."

### Officials bust pot catapult

**4** What will drug smugglers think of next? In an industry that thrives on innovation, some enterprising Mexican marijuana runners went medieval on the border fence, using a catapult to hurl bricks of weed into Arizona, authorities say. Various reports claim the device was capable of launching about 4 pounds of pot (or, presumably, any substance).

### Jon Stewart joins 9/11 board

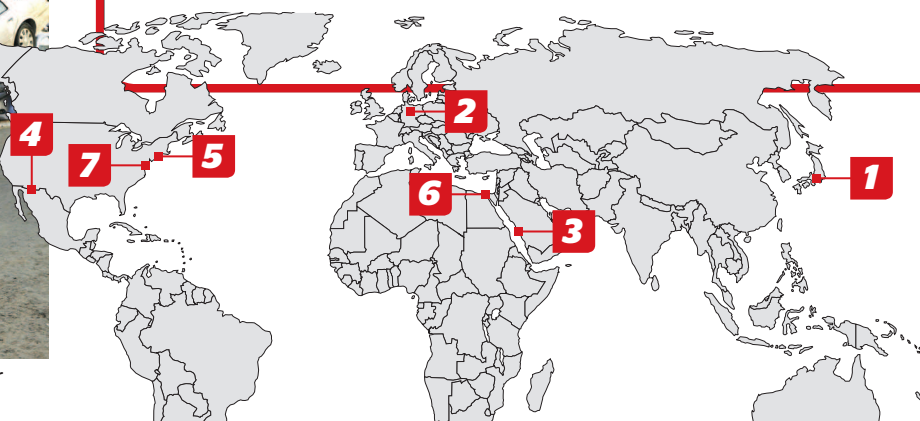
**5** "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart is on the board of the foundation building the Sept. 11 memorial in New York. The comedian-activist was appointed to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum board of directors Thursday. Stewart thanked the board and its chairman, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and said he would do what's needed to help.

### Nobel laureate returns to Egypt

**6** On the eve of massive displays of anti-government ferment across the world's most populous Arab nation, opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei arrived in Cairo and said "there is no going back" on change. ElBaradei, the Egyptian Nobel laureate, said people have taken to the streets because they "realize the regime is not listening, not acting."

### Feds scrap color warnings

**7** The Obama administration Thursday unveiled a new system to warn Americans about terrorism threats that will include specific information about the threat, scrapping the widely ignored color-coded alerts. The old approach was criticized because it lacked specifics about threats, prompting people to ignore the warnings.



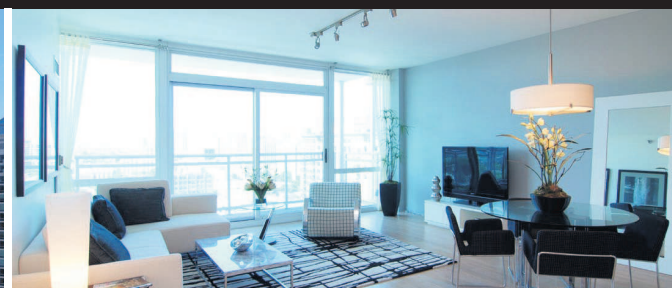
### THE DIGIT

## 19 inches

That's how much snow fell overnight Wednesday in New York's Central Park, beating the single-day record set in 1925.



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# sports

## THE HOCKEY WORKOUT

**WANT TO FEEL LIKE A STANLEY CUP CHAMPION? START WITH THE RIGHT EXERCISES**

**By Scott Bolohan**

FOR REDEYE

You may not have the agility of Patrick Kane or the speed of Brian Campbell, but you can still train like the Blackhawks.

If you know their secrets, that is. That's where someone like Mark Bayers comes in.

Bayers runs full strength performance training at Puckmasters in Glenview, which specializes in working with hockey players. With the proper exercise, even beginners can get themselves in shape for the rigors of hockey, he said.

And where should they start? Bayers said amateurs should dedicate a lot their time to core muscles.

"That's your foundation of your strength," said Bayers, who has played hockey for 30 years and has been training players since 1992. "You need to be able to understand how to use it and strengthen it and build from the inside. There are 36 muscles you are concentrating on in the midsection. When you have that ability to utilize those muscles, there's where pure strength and power comes from."

Don't bulk up too much, though. Bayers said a common misconception is hockey players should be as big as possible. Instead, something as simple as a physio ball instead of heavy barbells can get the job done, he said.

"The biggest problem I see is people focusing on building muscle and not training the whole system," Bayers said. "You are training movement, not muscles."

Hockey today focuses on speed and athleticism, and with that has come an emphasis on fitness. For a game which is so demanding a player can only last a few minutes on ice at a time, the sport is very taxing on the body. In fact, Bayers said hockey is among the most physically draining of sports, alongside soccer and cycling.

Blackhawks defenseman Jordan Hendry would believe that.

"At the start of the year you are always sore," said Hendry, 26. "Your legs, groin, shoulders and arms are always sore. You aren't used to getting hit after the summer and you are out there battling. As the year goes on, it's your legs."

Blackhawks players don't do much working out during the season because of the toll



Mark Bayers (back) instructs Paul Marobella of Oak Park on leg raises using a smart board during a hockey workout at Puckmasters in Glenview. **ANDREW A. NELLES PHOTO FOR REDEYE**

hockey takes on their body. Hendry said he takes three weeks to a month off when the season is over before resuming his training. In the first few weeks of working out, he mostly lifts weights to regain muscle he lost throughout the regular season. Then, when August rolls around, he starts working on agility, endurance and conditioning in the gym Monday through Friday. On Saturday, he'll swim or ride a bike.

Hendry is a believer in circuit training, focusing on the whole body.

"It's not so much heavy lifting as you go through five exercises and you take a rest and then do it again," Hendry said. "Throughout the summer I do mostly full-body workouts—one day it could be legs, another upper body. One day it'll be plyometrics."

The increase in fitness training has reached the amateur levels too.

Micah Sussman, 23, of Logan Square, plays hockey at Johnny's Ice House and McPettridge Sports Center. He started playing a year and a half ago and was blindsided by its physical demands.

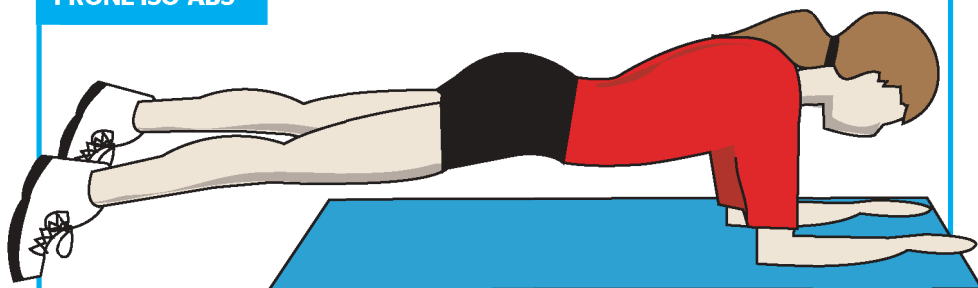
"Even when I was learning to skate, I was always exhausted because skating uses muscles that no other sport uses, and they are very weak, so I was constantly fatigued," Sussman said of the ankle and lower leg muscles



## GET IN HOCKEY SHAPE

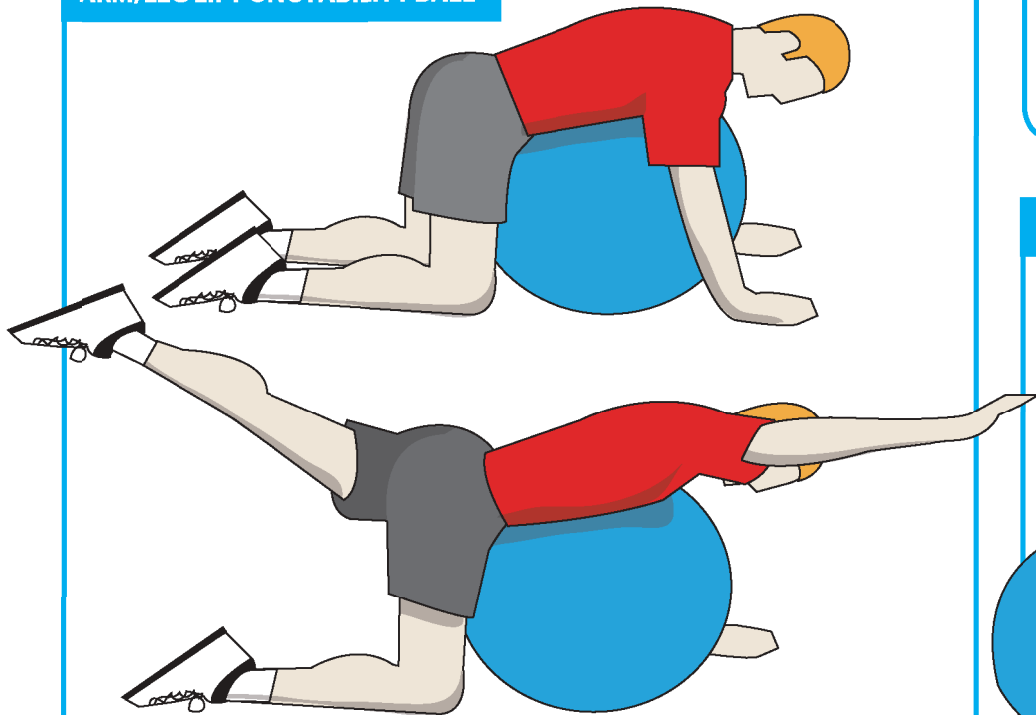
Want to work out like the pros? Mark Bayers of Puckmasters in Glenview suggests any of these workouts—three sets of 15 reps—three times a week on non-hockey-playing days. **S.B.**

### PRONE ISO-ABS



» Draw your lower abdomen inward toward your spine. Straighten body, tighten buttocks and lift body up onto forearms. While keeping your abdomen drawn in, hold for 15 seconds and repeat 10 times. Reduce time if needed. Proper form is more important than duration.

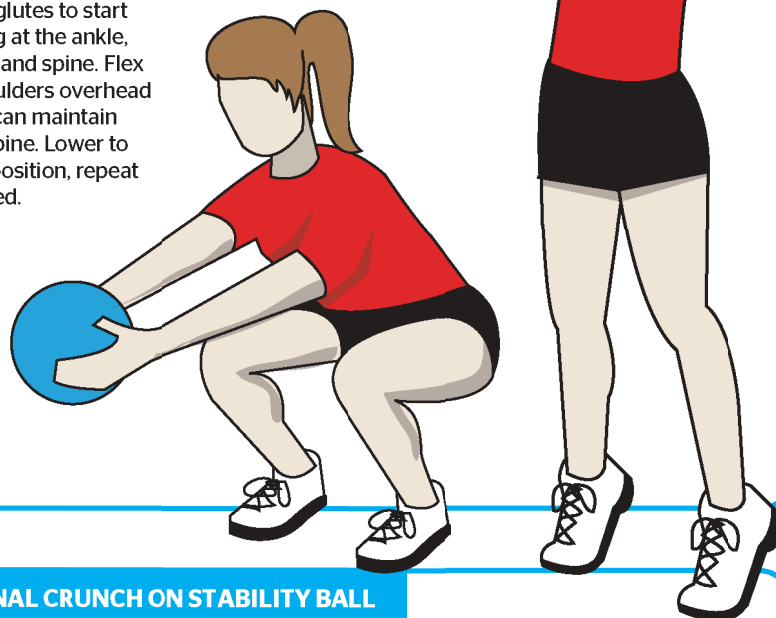
### ARM/LEG LIFT ON STABILITY BALL



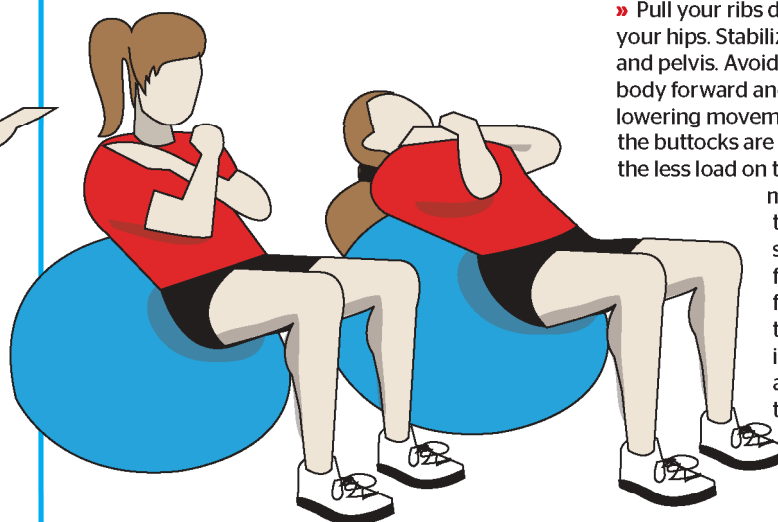
» Lift one arm and the opposite leg. Maintain cervical and pelvic alignment.

### EXTENSION/FLEXION WITH MEDICINE BALL

» Draw your belly button in toward your spine. From a squat position, squeeze glutes to start extending at the ankle, knee, hip and spine. Flex your shoulders overhead as far as can maintain neutral spine. Lower to starting position, repeat as required.



### ABDOMINAL CRUNCH ON STABILITY BALL



» Pull your ribs down toward your hips. Stabilize your neck and pelvis. Avoid thrusting the body forward and control your lowering movement. The closer the buttocks are to the floor, the less load on the abs and more load on the quads for stabilization. The further they are from the floor, the more load is placed on the abs and less on the quads.

used while skating. “I realized quickly that I needed to get in shape.”

Sussman heads to the gym to lift for the upper and lower body three days a week, on top of playing hockey two or three times a week.

“No one understands the rigors of hockey better than hockey players,” he said, singling out the lower back and legs among the sorest areas. “You wonder why they take 45-second

shifts, it’s because you play at 100 percent and you exhaust yourself.”

Blackhawks goalie Marty Turco doesn’t have to worry about skating up and down the ice, but he needs to be flexible and have strong legs and a strong lower back as he defends the net. He has managed to stay healthy throughout most of his 10-year career, even starting a Dallas Stars record 24 consecutive

games last season.

“In the last five years and every year almost exponentially more, proper balance training and movements that allow the body to function smoothly allows me to move better,” said Turco, 35. “Training to get my body more flexible in general so I can move better and have less chance of wear and tear, pulls and tugs.”

The hockey season is such a grind that Turco relishes his days off in the summer to recover.

“We overdo it as it is just by the nature of our business, so I’ll take off time from the ice in the summer,” Turco said. “Once I start getting scared, then I realize I have to start seeing that puck again.”

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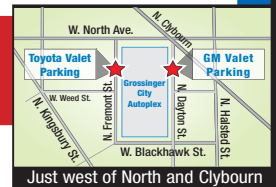
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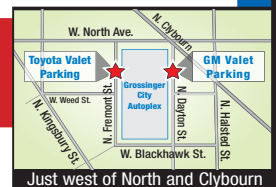


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# On the ballot

After much review, Larry Bailey is back on the Five on Five panel. He appealed his decision at [redeyechicago.com/5on5](http://redeyechicago.com/5on5).

five on five

TOPIC	GEORGIA GARVEY <a href="mailto:ggarvey@tribune.com">ggarvey@tribune.com</a>	ALEX QUIGLEY <a href="http://twitter.com/alexquigley">twitter.com/alexquigley</a>	AMY GUTH <a href="http://twitter.com/amyguth">twitter.com/amyguth</a>	BAG BOY <a href="http://redeyechicago.com/5on5">redeyechicago.com/5on5</a>	LARRY BAILEY <a href="http://twitter.com/badbadleroyb">twitter.com/badbadleroyb</a>
<b>1</b> How big is the Bulls' showdown with Orlando on Friday night?	Bigger than a breadbasket, smaller than a tractor trailer.	Remember last weekend's Bears-Packers game? 373 percent smaller.	Meh. Mickey Mouse is bigger.	Not big enough to forgo "The Dark Knight" on TNT. Joker, Batman, now there's a showdown.	Bigger than Dwight Howard's shoulders with Ray Lewis poking out of the side of them.
<b>2</b> How could Joakim Noah accelerate rehab on his hand?	Learn to play with one arm, like the drummer from Def Leppard.	Use the Power Glove. It's so ... bad.	Throw a drunken party that results in injuring it all over again.	I can tell you what I do with my hand to keep it active, but not in this paper.	He can go outside to the Michael Jordan statue and wax on, wax off.
<b>3</b> Kurt Thomas is to the Bulls as ...	... I feel like I am on the RedEye staff: by far the oldest.	... Kurt Rambis was to the 1980s Lakers. Or Danny Thomas was to the cast of "It."	... sort of like that one old jar of forgotten jam is to your fridge, bless his heart.	... Uncle Jesse is to "The Dukes of Hazzard." Older, doesn't really fit in.	... Marky Mark is to Mark Wahlberg: Good vibrations!
<b>4</b> What would be your patented Winter X Games trick?	The Marvey Garvey, in which I jump over a coffee table to change the channel.	Quadruple behind-the-back, no-look snooze-but-ton hammering.	Extreme watching and drinking.	Making it to work in Chicago every day. Not easy, folks.	A kung fu kick to Deion Sanders' chest. Then he can lie about that injury.
<b>5</b> What did Tiger Woods do in the offseason to improve his game?	Please don't torture me like this. It's a family newspaper.	Something something shoots a 69 something strokes something hole.	He should have started by wiping that pouty frown off his face. So brooding, that Woods. So brooding!	He started hanging out with a better class of ... oh, that game!	Do something that was a foreign concept to him for a while: actually play golf.

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Bag Boy says Todd Collins had no business serving as the backup in the Bears' loss to Green Bay on Sunday. BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE

# Bears hurt me too



**sacked again**

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Boy, I hate to drag out this old quote, but it fits so well. Yes, the Bears are who we thought they were.

And they're good, not great. But before we begin, I need some alone time with Jay Cutler.

Jay, you know I actually like you. As bad as it's been, you and I know you're twice as good as any mope who's played here the past 20 years. I think you're tough enough to play here and to win here. That's why I won't rip you on the knee like many others—the Bag does angry, he doesn't do cheap and mean.

But seriously, dude, clean it up. Keep the head up, smile once in a while, answer coherently. Be nice. Speak clearly. Quit moping. Clean up your act—you brought this on yourself. It appears your teammates like you. That's a start.

Just do the basics—and win.

Back to the team. Hey, I'm hurt, I'm angry. You know what I want: At least one or 10 offensive linemen, depending on how angry I am. And please, please, please, give me a stud receiver. Don't sell me Devin Hester and

Johnny Knox as No. 1s, please. Just don't.

The defense is fine. I think if we play our cards right, we should be ready to play Green Bay in the next NFC title game, which at this rate should be in 70 years or so.

The coaches can stay, but here's a hint: Caleb Hanie is your No. 2. Mike Martz, if you can't see that, you need your shaded glasses checked.

Todd Collins. I'm naming a drink after you. It's the drink I made myself while watching you play Sunday. It had vodka, whiskey, gin, rum, Sambuca, Jagermeister, orange juice, cranberry juice, soda, tonic, vodka and whiskey.

If it doesn't get you drunk, it will kill you. And either of those scenarios is better than watching this guy play. So when I say "I'll have a Todd Collins please," it means I want to die soon.

Onward... to nothing. Now begins the long walk over the tundra in "Dr. Zhivago."

**BAG BOY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

## Rose follows in MJ's steps

Derrick Rose earned his first All-Star starting berth when voting results were announced Thursday night, becoming the Bulls' first All-Star starter since Michael Jordan in 1998.

In his third NBA season, Rose now is a two-time All-Star, having been voted in by coaches as a reserve last season. This season's All-Star game is Feb. 20 in L.A.

"I'm feeling really loved right now and I appreciate all the support that helped me earn a starting position in the All-Star game," Rose said after the announcement. "I want to thank all the fans that voted, especially the people from my hometown of Chicago. I also want to give thanks to the Bulls organization that did a great job promoting me, and most of all I want to thank my teammates and coaches for putting me in this position."

Rose joins fellow local product Dwyane Wade (Heat) as an Eastern Conference starting guard. The other Eastern starters are Dwight Howard (Magic) at center and LeBron James (Heat) and Amare Stoudemire (Knicks) at forward.

The Western Conference starters are Kobe Bryant (Lakers), Chris Paul (Hornets), Yao Ming (Rockets), Kevin Durant (Thunder) and Carmelo Anthony (Nuggets).



**Rose in his All-Star uniform**  
NBA

### GAME PLANNER

**Bulls vs. Orlando**  
7 p.m. CSN

**Winter X Games**  
6 p.m. ESPN

**Wolves at San Antonio**  
7 p.m.

» Tiger Woods fared well Thursday in the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif., finishing at 3 under par in the first PGA Tour event of the 2011 season.

» The Cubs have agreed to terms with former Milwaukee right-hander Braden Loper and former Cubs utility infielder Augie Ojeda on minor league contracts that include invitations to spring training.

### COLLEGE BASKETBALL

» Indiana 52, Illinois 49  
» Loyola 84, Youngstown St. 71  
» S. Florida 71, DePaul 60

» Cleveland St. 63, UIC 49  
» Tenn. Tech 77, E. Illinois 74  
» Utah Valley 84, Chicago St. 11

» Roger Federer, the 16-time Grand Slam winner, was knocked out of the Australian Open 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday by 2008 champion Novak Djokovic.



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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW ...

**wkd!****MOVIES**

Anthony Hopkins battles Evil in "The Rite." **page 36-37**

**TRAVEL**

You too can quit work and get lost in the world. **page 42**

**Barrio Urban Taqueria**  
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE PHOTOS



**Taco Joint Urban Taqueria and Cantina**



# Tacos x 2

**We test Lincoln Park's new so-called 'urban taquerias'**

**By Lisa Arnett**

Here's one for your vocabulary list: urban taqueria. That's what two new Lincoln Park eateries

are called, and it's not because the owners are afraid you'll confuse them with ... suburban taquerias. Rather, it's their attempt to blend Mexican street fare with a dose of city coolness.

With Barrio Urban Taqueria (714 W. Diversey Parkway 773-360-8314), which opened Monday, owner Dorian Menchaca was inspired by his love of Guadalajara taco vendors, mixed with "a Chicago urban feel where it's a little more modern, a little trendy." A short cab ride away down Halsted Street, Taco Joint Urban Taqueria and Cantina (1969 N. Halsted St. 312-951-2457), a street fare-focused sibling to River North's Zocalo, opened Tuesday. "I wanted to keep it casual, almost to the point of less is more, but still bring that level of sophistication," co-owner Edgar Castañeda said. We stopped into both spots for an early look at how the tacos and house margaritas are stacking up.

## THE TACOS

**Barrio:** Mix-and-match taco quartets (\$8.99) arrive with a trio of tomato, tomatillo and avocado salsas. We tried the rich, juicy pork carnitas and the tender but not especially flavorful lengua (braised beef tongue), but the mango-topped tilapia (and its Half Acre Daisy Cutter-spiked beer batter) took the lead as our favorite.

**Taco Joint:** A la carte tacos (\$2-\$3 each) were so full of wet fillings that the tortillas self-destructed at first bite. Flavor-wise, we liked the duck carnitas taco made with ancho chili salsa-topped shreds of duck confit and the sinus-clearing spicy cochinita, Yucatan-style pulled pork with a heap of pickled red onions. We weren't fans of the al pastor, made with chalky tasting chicken instead of the traditional pork, though Castañeda said they're still working on that preparation.

## THE VIBE



**Barrio:** Neatly framed portraits of street art dot the walls, while the soundtrack cycles between Spanish pop, Roisin Murphy and the Ting Tings.

**Taco Joint:** The paint-splashed tile floor and roughed-up walls decorated with murals hawking beer and tequila brands keep the place from looking too precious.







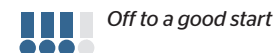
TV

Debbie Gibson,  
Tiffany star in  
Saturday  
smackdown.  
**page 43**



## The Butcher & Larder

1026 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-687-8280



Off to a good start

**The scene:** This Noble Square butcher shop's spare look and smoked-meat scent put the focus (rightly so) on former Mado chef Rob Levitt's cut-to-order meats from local farms.

**The food:** Look to the countertop chalkboard for daily soup and sandwich options (one hot, one cold). This isn't Grahamwich; sammies are simple and rustic, not piled high with gourmet embellishments. We loved the tasty, not overly saucy sloppy joe made with ground beef from Elkhorn, Wis.-based Dietzler Farms. Though the cold option by nature couldn't comfort as much as that sloppy joe, thick slices of porchetta (pork belly and loin roasted with garlic and rosemary) match nicely with tangy pickled fennel. The \$10 price includes a drink (try the Sprecher's root beer) and a bag of Jay's potato chips. Grab your order to-go or take a stand at the counter.

**Tip:** Sandwiches are served till 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday through Saturday, but when they're gone for the day, they're gone. At 6 p.m. on a recent weeknight, we snagged the last porchetta sandwich.

**Bottom line:** Foodies north of North Avenue may not stray from Sterling Goss as their go-to indie butcher, but the Butcher & Larder is worth a stop for simple sandwiches. —LISA ARNETT

## THE 'RITAS

**Barrio:** The house lime margarita (\$7) was well-balanced, but small and over-iced. Other signature 'ritas include blood orange and prickly pear flavors (\$7) or the Rehab (\$9) with St. Germain elderflower liqueur and tamarind syrup.



**Taco Joint:** The pint glass-sized Zocalo margarita (\$7) was plenty big, but a bit pucker-inducing. There's also a grapefruit margarita (\$9) and the Black and Green (\$8), a beergrita mixing the house 'rita with Negra Modelo. We took the kiddie-size water glasses as a hint that boozing is strongly encouraged.

## THE NON-TACO OPTIONS

**Barrio:** Sopas (ground corn pies filled with braised meats), seafood fajitas and hearty meat-centric entrees such as mango butter-topped skirt steak.

**Taco Joint:** Tortas (sandwiches), huarches (flatbreads) and snacks such as taquitos and elotes (corn on the cob slathered with mayo, cheese and chili).

## THE BOTTOM LINE

Though you can get your fill of tacos plus a cocktail for around \$20 at both taquerias, Barrio leans fancier and would make a fun date spot, while the more street fare-focused Taco Joint (which will also open a late-night taco window when the weather warms) feels grittier and more laid-back. We weren't wowed by the standard 'rita at either, but we'd go back to try the other intriguing signature sips. Though neither visit was gripe-free (Lay off that ice, Barrio, and Taco Joint, what about doubling up on tortillas?), with some tweaks during the opening weeks, they both have plenty of potential.

LISA ARNETT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER. LARNETT@TRIBUNE.COM. REVIEWERS DINE ANONYMOUSLY AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY METROMIX.

## THE TICKER

Get more need-to-know dining news at  
[chicago.metromix.com/restaurants](http://chicago.metromix.com/restaurants)

» The latest project of Hub 51 owners Jerrod and R.J. Melman, **Paris Club** (59 W. Hubbard St.) is scheduled to open Feb. 7.

» Calling itself an "Italian fun pub," **Bia for Mia** (1147 W. Grand Ave.) aims to open during the first week in February.

» Wicker Park coffeehouse **Caffe Streets** (1750 W. Division St.) aims to open its doors as early as Friday or Saturday.

» Looking to BYOB in Jefferson Park? Bring a bottle to new Mediterranean-inspired spot **Caspian Cafe** (5691 N. Milwaukee Ave.



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# Dough nuts!

With no shortage of elaborate, unusual options in Chicago's pizza world, month-old Little Italy pizzeria Dough Boys (626 S. Racine Ave. 312-243-9799) is refreshingly straightforward. You'll find four tables with red-and-white checkered tablecloths, friendly service, a no-reservations policy and pizza by the slice displayed in a case next to the register. The only decision to make is what you want on your thin or stuffed pizza, which executive chef/Francesca's Restaurant Group pizza extraordinaire Leo Spizzirri fires up in an oven from the '60s that can cook up to 65 pies at once.

Like adjacent Italian spot Salatino's, Dough Boys is owned by Scott Harris of Mia Francesca (along with Jimmy Bannos of Heaven on Seven and the Purple Pig), which cooks up a pretty good pie of its own. So we went in with hearty expectations.

## PIZZA REVIEW

### !!! Dough Boys

We taste-test Little Italy's newest thin-crust and stuffed pies

**What we ordered:** 12-inch thin-crust pizza (\$9.95; \$2 per topping) with roasted red peppers, broccoli, basil (free), fresh garlic (free), fresh mozzarella and half pepperoni; 10-inch stuffed pizza (\$13.95; \$2 per topping) with spinach, mushrooms, basil, fresh garlic and half meatballs

**The crust:** Both kinds of crust are buttery and crisp but not too crackery; in fact, the stuffed pizza achieves the impressive feat of offering both crust that could be broken and crunched and some underlying, soft doughiness that could be torn.

Spizzirri uses lard rather than olive oil in the dough to deliver a pizza he says is Chicago-style with underlying Italian pizza-making principles.

**The sauce:** The thin crust's sauce was a little thin but delicious, composed only of ground tomatoes with a sprinkling of oregano and parmesan cheese. On the stuffed, the otherwise nicely chunky sauce (and every bite of the pizza) was overwhelmed by oppressively heavy oregano.



**Dough Boys**  
JASON LITTLE PHOTO FOR METROMIX

**The toppings:** Ground-beef meatballs, a great option, are executed beautifully. Sadly the pepperoni was so passive we regretted ordering it. The spectacular fresh mozzarella and fresh broccoli provided more than enough flavor on the thin-crust pie.

**Reheated the next day:** Solid. One caveat when you toss it in the toaster oven (a better bet than the microwave): The cheese on the dense stuffed pizza takes a long time to re-melt, and you may burn the crust in the process. We did.

**FYI:** For \$29.95 you can order the 3-foot-

long Pizza al Metro, which Dough Boys says serves eight to 10. Dough Boys isn't BYOB, but you can bring in drinks from the bar at Salatino's, or just eat your pizza at the bar. Later this year (tentatively Aug. 7) Spizzirri will execute a mile-long (5,280 feet) pizza, stretching from Halsted to Ashland on Taylor Street, in an attempt to break a Guinness Book of World Records title held by Poland's 3,030-foot pizza.

**Bottom line:** With a few minor adjustments, the invitingly casual Dough Boys could go from good to great. Not that you should wait to try it until that happens.

—MATT PAIS, METROMIX SENIOR PRODUCER

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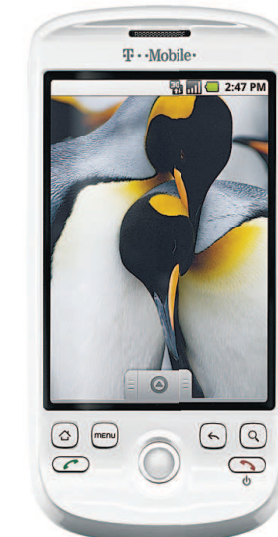


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## PASS&FAIL

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND LOWLIGHTS FROM THE PAST WEEK



### Ski-themed bashes

We've gotta give a trio of local bars—

✓ Crossing, Mickeys and Faith & Whiskey—credit for embracing the freezing temps with ski-themed parties this Saturday. So much more appropriate than resorting to an escapist luau-themed bash in January.

—LISA ARNETT

### Another Oscar snub for Christopher Nolan

✗ What does the guy have to do, Academy? You didn't reward him for his phenomenal, Chicago-filmed "The Dark Knight," and now you've again deprived him a best director nomination for "Inception," a film that was even more difficult to execute. Absurd!

—MATT PAIS

### FRIDAY DEALS: GET YOUR WEEKEND STARTED WITH PARTIES, DJS AND MORE

#### BERLIN

Nightcaps: Local comics Adam Guerino and The Puterbaugh Sisterz and DJ Greg Haus host a variety show featuring performance art, burlesque, live music and more. A dance party with the cast follows; 11 p.m., \$5; 954 W. Belmont Ave. 773-348-4975.

#### BUTTERFLY SOCIAL CLUB

One Love. DJ Papa G. spins reggae 9 p.m.; No cover; 722 W. Grand Ave. 312-666-1695.

#### CRIMSON LOUNGE

Eric Ortiz: Live acoustic music from the lead singer and guitarist of Chicago cover band Rendition. Includes appetizers and \$6-\$8 Absolut drinks; 5 p.m., Free; 333 N. Dearborn St. Hotel Sax. 312-923-2473.

#### ENCLAVE

Scion Spin Off Series; 9 p.m., \$20. No cover before 11 p.m. with RSVP; 220 W. Chicago Ave. 312-654-0234.

#### EXIT

Broadzilla! The Burlesque Beast: Vaudezilla hosts a rotating roster of 8-12 burlesque performers. Drink specials include \$3 PBRs and \$4 Absolut cocktails; 10:30 p.m., free; 1315 W. North Ave. 773-685-9020.

#### THE FIFTY/50

Heaven and Hell Party: Dress in costume for the "Heaven" theme on the top floor and the "Hell" theme on the bottom floor to win a party package for later. Open Absolut cocktail reception with free mini "Heaven" and "Hell" burgers and cocktails." 8 p.m., free; 2047 W. Division St. 773-489-5050.

#### FIZZ BAR & GRILL

Free buffet and shot bar: Celebrate the bar's 14th anniversary; 8 p.m., no cover. RSVP required; 3220 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-348-6088.

#### NV PENTHOUSE LOUNGE

Mediterranean Fridays: A weekly international dance and house music party with rotating DJs; Cover varies. RSVP: [mamuevents@gmail.com](mailto:mamuevents@gmail.com); 116 W. Hubbard St. 773-490-0975.

#### SIDETRACK

DJ spins show tunes (5-9 p.m.), DJ spins high energy (9 p.m.-2 a.m.); 3349 N. Halsted St. 773-477-9189.

#### SMART BAR

?uestlove: Major Taylor, Intel; 10 p.m., \$20; 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

#### SOUND-BAR

Release Fridays: DJs Dannyboy, Victor R, Billy the Kid and Technique spin. \$125 Belvedere bottle specials available; 10 p.m., \$20. RSVP for free admission before midnight, \$10 after; 226 W. Ontario St. 312-787-4480.

#### UNCLE FATTY'S RUM RESORT

Winter Music Fest: The second annual music fest includes 25 cover bands and 10 DJs playing on two stages. Headliners include Mike and Joe, 16 Candles, Modern Day Romes, Hairbanger's Ball, The Spazmatics, and Hi-Infidelity. Jan. 27: Proceeds donated to breast cancer research. Wear a wig and receive complimentary drinks 8-9 p.m.; \$5-\$10; 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661.

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**ESCAPE THE FATE** - Feb. 20 • **PETE YORN** - Feb. 23 • **THE SAW DOCTORS** - Saturday, Mar. 19  
**AMOS LEE** - Saturday, Mar. 26 • **GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR** - Mar. 28  
**STATE RADIO** - Saturday, April 2 • **MOUNTAIN GOATS** - April 5  
**CHRIS CORNELL** - Friday, April 22 - On Sale Tomorrow at 10am! • **THE KILLS** - May 4 • **OF MONTREAL** - May 5

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**COLD WAR KIDS** - Friday, March 11 • **CRYSTAL CASTLES** - Saturday, March 12  
**BRIGHT EYES** - March 15 - Sold Out! • **CUT COPY** - Friday, April 8  
**JAMES BLUNT** - April 28 • **DEFTONES** - Saturday, April 30  
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## CONCERTS

### FRIDAY

**THE BLACK UMBRELLA BRIGADE, THE CHOSE IN FEW, ROBERT JAMES AND THE COUGH, SLEEP FOLKZ, HASHBROWN ONE MAN BAND, S'ROUND**  
8:30 p.m. \$8-\$10. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

**BOTTLE OF JUSTUS, THE FOLD, JUST LEFT**  
8:30 p.m. \$13-\$15. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

**CHEVERE**  
9 p.m. \$10-\$15. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

**DICK PRALL, CLIP ART**  
9:30 p.m. \$10. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

**THE FIRESHIP, SHELBY POLLARD, PHILLIP MORRIS, FLAME SHARK**  
9 p.m. \$10-\$12. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. 773-281-4444.

**HAYMARKET RIOT, FREDDIE T AND THE PEOPLE, THE SKY WE SCRAPE, LOVE AND SQUALOR**  
9 p.m. Cover varies. Cafeteria y Restaurante de Pancho, 2200 N. California Ave. 773-772-7811.

**LARRY GRAY TRIO**  
8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

**MARTY AND WAYNE OF FJB**  
7 p.m. \$20. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2501.

**MATTHEW DEAR, LOYAL DIVIDE, ORCHARD LOUNGE, LEE FOSS**  
8 p.m. \$10. The Mid, 306 N. Halsted St. 312-265-3990.

**MICHAEL LUX AND THE BAD SONS, THE HALF RATS, THE MUTTS, BOB DEY'S TANK ENGINE MAN**

9:30 p.m. \$5 (free before 10 p.m.). Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.

**MIRANDA COSGROVE, GREYSON CHANCE**  
7 p.m. \$27-\$32. Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. 847-671-5100.

**THE NADAS, ALISON SCOTT**  
8 p.m. \$12-\$20. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 312-360-3145.

**ORMEN LANGE, AKTAR AKTAR, AUTOMATA, THE ALAYA CONSCIOUS, THE CONGREGATION, MACHINEGUN MOJO, SOUL POLLUTION**  
7 p.m. \$8. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0125.

**RED WANTING BLUE, ARYK CROWDER, GRAHAM CZACH**  
8 p.m. \$7. Cubby Bear, 1059 W. Addison St. 773-327-1662.

**RICO, LIZARD KINGS**  
9 p.m. \$10. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

**STEVE DAWSON, MELANIE BUDD**  
10 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

**VELOCICOPTER, THE REMEMBERWHENS, GOODYE CLEVELAND, DOZENS**  
9 p.m. Free. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

**WINDY CITY REV UPS**  
10 p.m. \$10. House of Blues Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2007.

**SATURDAY ALEXANDER WEBB, TAYLER PHELAN**  
10 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

**BANNER PILOT, NOISE BY NUMBERS, THE BROKEDOWNS, THE SLOW DEATH**  
9 p.m. \$10. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont

Ave. 773-281-4444.

**BLAH BLAH BLAH, ROOM 11, JESS GODWIN, BORROW TOMORROW**  
9 p.m. \$8. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

**THE BOSTON THEIVES, THE HORRIDS, THE SMUTS, NO TWO WAYNES, BAMF, PUBLICITY STUNT, CROSSBONES INC., THE F\*\*\*ERS**  
7 p.m. \$10. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0125.

**CADILLAC DAVE AND THE CHICAGO REDHOTS**  
10 p.m. \$10. House of Blues Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2007.

**CHRIS SLONE, THE FANCY BOYS**  
6:30 p.m. \$10. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

**DAN NAVARRO**  
9 p.m. \$20. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

**DAVY JONES, THE GRASS ROOTS WITH ROB GRILL, THE BUCKINGHAMS**  
7:30 p.m. \$34. Star Plaza Theatre, 8001 Delaware Pl., Merrillville, Ind. 219-769-6600.

**EXPO '76**  
9 p.m. \$15. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

**FAREED HAQUE'S MATH GAMES, A TERRIBLE SPACESHIP**  
9:30 p.m. \$10-\$12. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

**THE LIFELINE, LUCID GROUND, KIRKLAND, CURBSIDE**  
6:30 p.m. \$11. Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. 773-549-0203.

**LITTLE MISS ANN BAND, BOOGERS, AMERIKID IDOL, MARY MACARONI**  
11:30 a.m. \$7. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. 773-281-4444.



**Erick Sermon**  
GETTY IMAGES FILE



**kyra kyles**

kkyles@tribune.com

# Local rappers get a Sermon

Local rappers prone to lyrical laziness and producers with a wavering work ethic might want to take cover Feb. 5.

That's when Erick Sermon, super-producer and half of '90s-era rap duo EPMD, will serve as a panelist at a day-long initiative aimed at offering tips and encouragement to those looking to

succeed in the rap industry.

Besides sitting on a panel with producer and DJ Terry Hunter, Sermon will perform at an after-party as part of the overall Hip-Hop 360 Producers Seminar event organized by Teefa from Power 92 (92.3 FM), rapper Twone Gabz and promoter John Blaze.

The event is a much-needed attempt to add more infrastructure to the Chicago music scene, according to Teefa and Sermon, who added that he also wants to inspire local artists to challenge the formulaic, materialistic subject matter that dominates mainstream rap.

"Everything isn't about money and stripping," Sermon told RedEye during a recent phone interview. "How many ways can you describe getting Champagne and popping bottles in 2011?"

Sermon—who is prepping a new solo album,

"ESP," or "Erick Sermon's Perspective"—says he knows he sounds angry when he talks about his art form, but is frustrated at the lack of quality he sees among some young rappers.

"Where are those 'Party Like a Rockstar' dudes right now,"

Sermon asked, referencing the Shop Boyz. "I tell my artists out of Atlanta, for example, take a look at these people who come out of Atlanta. Thousands of songs on the Internet and on the radio, yet the only names you can think of offhand are T.I., Outkast, Ludacris and [Young] Jeezy."

Sermon plans to raise that point and target Chicago's notorious and unique "haterville" moniker when he touches down in the Windy City.

"You all need to work together like artists in Atlanta and New York do," Sermon said of the brewing rivalries and lack of local radio airplay for artists. "We all have to work together for hip-hop to continue to reign."

Read the full interview and find out what else Sermon is working on at [redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles](http://redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles).

## Hip-Hop 360 Producers Seminar with Erick Sermon

**When:** 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Feb. 5

**Where:** Little Black Pearl, 1060 E. 47th St.

**More info:** Text "360" to 312-731-2941 for details on Hip-Hop 360 events



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## TOP SHOWS

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### CALIFORNIA WIVES

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9:30 p.m. Fri. \$10. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

### YOUNG THE GIANT

*They're actually from California. With Pomegranates, Moxie Motive.*

10 p.m. Fri. Sold out. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

### LYRICS BORN

*He used to be awesome. With Keys and Krates, The Opus, Abstract Giants, Vapor Eyes.*

8:30 p.m. Sat. \$18-\$20. Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. 773-478-4408.

### ANTONY ABLAN AND THE TRAMPS

*You've got two knees, and they ain't gon' slap themselves. With Seafarer, Old Shoe.*

10 p.m. Fri. \$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.



## CONCERT LISTINGS CONTINUED

### LOST IN THE TREES, CHEYENNE MARIE MIZE

8 p.m. \$11-\$15. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

### THE LOW HEARTS, THE BLACK TAPE, SUTURED PSYCHE, CHRIS HERNING AND THE MONEY BACK GUARANTEES, KICK BRICKS

8 p.m. \$10. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

### MUNROE, THE ACTION BLAST, HEART SET SELF DESTRUCT, MAKESHIFT PRODIGY, AMRITA

7:30 p.m. \$8-\$10. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

### NIT-GRIT, SPANKALICIOUS, RICHIE AUGUST FEATURING MC SKOPE DIESEL, BANDIT, LO-BOUNCE, DJ ATTACK

10 p.m. \$10-\$15. The Kinetic Playground,

1113 W. Lawrence Ave. 773-769-5483.

### ORO, BLOOD OF THE TYRANT, STONECUTTERS, HEAVING MASS

10 p.m. \$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

### PORTABLE MODELS, AMUSED, JEREMIAH HIGGINS, TIFFANY THOMPSON

9 p.m. \$8. Goose Island Wrigleyville, 3535 N. Clark St. 773-832-9040.

### SCHOOL OF ROCK CHICAGO

2 p.m. \$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

### TAPES 'N TAPES, OBERHOFER, THE KICKBACK

10 p.m. \$15. Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2508.

### THIS MUST BE THE BAND

9 p.m. \$15. Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave.

773-381-4554.

### WEBB WILDER

9 p.m. \$15. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

## SUNDAY

### BASSEL, ARTHI MEERA, JEFF MITCHELL

7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

### CONRAD RICHARDS, DORIAN TAJ, COCO BUTTER KIDS

9 p.m. \$5. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

### FREEDY JOHNSTON, DARDEN SMITH

8 p.m. \$17-\$20. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 312-360-3145.

### GRAHAM PARSONS AND THE GO-ROUND, POVERTY HASH, PARIS

### SCHUTZ

8 p.m. \$5. Reggie's Music Joint, 2105 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

### JEFF TWEEDY, JC BROOKS AND THE UPTOWN SOUND

6 p.m. \$85-\$150 (chicagoforrahm.com/tweedy). Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. 773-929-5959.

### JIMMY BURNS

9 p.m. \$5. House of Blues Back Porch Stage, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2007.

### JOHN HAMMOND, ERNIE HAWKINS

7 p.m. \$18-\$22. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.

### MENDELSSOHN, AJP, ROBERT BENESH

8 p.m. \$8. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. 773-278-6600.

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@mmxMusic

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**#Slash and #KingsofLeon spoke negatively of 'Glee.' The show's creator says the rockers are stupid. Who's right?**

Here are some answers we liked from Twitter and Facebook. Follow @mmxmusic and watch for next week's question!

TWITTER

@RedArgyle

Glee makes me miss the far more original Cop Rock.

@JackieKnows

Slash isn't exactly my go to guy for musical opinions.

@Queengasoline

<KOL has every right to refuse to share their crappy recycled Night Ranger tunes, they had no right to insult all the LGBT's

@MarkBeers

Biggest problem with Glee. Autotune. Are you telling me there are not actors capable of singing those songs without it?

@Haterface

all glee does is rip off well known songs..how are they anything special? America is so dumb sometimes.

@Erincropper

I would say that the Kings of Leon \*are\* stupid, but I don't think it's really because the Glee creator says so...

@omhassan7

I feel one can't judge another's creativity, just because they may not like it, doesn't mean it's stupid.

@ModelStranger

Hahaha. Who has the ego here? Glee can't handle being the rejectee so they jump on the KOL bashing train.

@Rookiephenom

if slash and kings want to pre-serve the integrity of their music without glee mucking it up, good for them!

@chicagolindz

Why so serious, Slash? It's mindless entertainment. You know what that is, right? Hint: Your solo albums.

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YOUR ON-SALE CONCERT GUIDE

ON SALE 10 A.M. FRIDAY

**DeVotchka**, Thursday, March 31 (\$23-\$25, 17+) at House of Blues.

**Henry Rollins: 50**, Saturday, March 26 (\$30, all ages) at Mercury Theatre.

**The Script**, Wednesday, June 1 (\$32.75-\$35, all ages) at Aragon.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

**Architecture in Helsinki, Hooray for Earth**, Friday, June 10 (\$16-\$18, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Collie Buddz, New Kingston, Los Rakas**, Sunday, April 17 (\$17.50-\$20, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Hayes Carll**, Friday, April 8 (\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

**The Civil Wars**, Monday, April 11, Tuesday, April 12 (\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

**Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.**, Friday, March 25 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

**Danielson, Sono, Miracle Condition**, Wednesday, March 30 (\$12, 18+) at Schubas.

**Deep Dark Robot**, Thursday, March 31 (\$15, 21+) at Schubas.

**Delorean**, Tuesday, April 19 (\$15-\$18, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Dispatch**, Tuesday, June 7 (\$40, all ages) at UIC Pavilion, Wednesday, June 8 (\$20-\$40, all ages) at Jay Pritzker Pavilion.

**Foster the People, Grouplove, Lesands**, Saturday, April 2 (\$10-\$12, 18+) at Schubas.

**Gold Panda, Dam-Mantle**, Tuesday, March 29 (\$10, 18+) at Schubas.

**Hauschka**, Tuesday, April 26 (\$14, 21+) at Schubas.

**The Head and the Heart**, Sunday, Feb. 27 (\$12, 21+) at Schubas.

**The Joy Formidable, The Lonely Forest**, Tuesday, April 5 (\$13-\$15, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Pogo**, Wednesday, March 9 (\$15, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Joe Pug**, Friday, April 29 (\$14, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Sebadoh**, Sunday, April 3 (\$18, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.



janet jackson  
GETTY IMAGES

**Ron Sexsmith**, Tuesday, March 22 (\$15, 21+) at Schubas.

**Tobacco, Beans, Shapers**, Friday, April 15 (\$14, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

**Xray Eyeballs**, Thursday, March 24 (\$8-\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY

**Cage the Elephant, Sleeper Agent**, Wednesday, March 2 (\$20, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

**Cake**, Saturday, May 14 (\$35, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

**Chris Cornell**, Friday, April 22 (\$40, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

**Echo and the Bunnymen, Kelley Stoltz**, Tuesday, May 17 (\$30, 18+) at Vic Theatre.

**Colin Hay**, Saturday, April 30 (\$27.50, 18+) at Park West.

**Katy Perry, Marina and the Diamonds**, Friday, July 8 (\$35-\$45, all ages) at Allstate Arena.

**Three Days Grace**, Thursday, April 7 (\$30, all ages) at Riviera Theatre.

**Two Door Cinema Club**, Thursday, April 7 (\$18, all ages) at Park West.

ON SALE 11 A.M. SATURDAY

**Janet Jackson, Mindless Behavior**, Wednesday, March 9 (\$50-\$200, all ages) at Chicago Theatre.

ON SALE NOON SATURDAY

**Cloudbirds, Algebro**, Saturday, March 5 (\$7-\$9, 18+) at Metro.

**DJ Heather, Chris Santiago, Karl and Mark Almaria, Frankie J, DJ Sangre**, Monday, Feb. 21 (\$5, 21+) at Smart Bar.

**Tony Fitzpatrick**, Sunday, Feb. 27 (\$7-\$25, 21+) at Double Door.

**The Flaming Lips**, Thursday, July 7 (\$35, all ages) at Aragon.

**Like Pioneers, Boat, Buddy Revelles, Milagres, Creeping Weeds**, Thursday, April 7 (\$7, 21+) at Double Door.

**Justin Long, Specter, Gianna Hardt**, Saturday, Feb. 19 (\$7-\$12, 21+) at Smart Bar.

**Travie McCoy, Donnis, Black Cards, XV, Bad Rabbits**, Friday, March 25 (\$18-\$21, all ages) at Metro.

**Yacht**, Thursday, May 5 (\$16, 18+) at Metro.

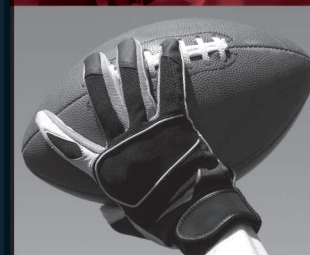
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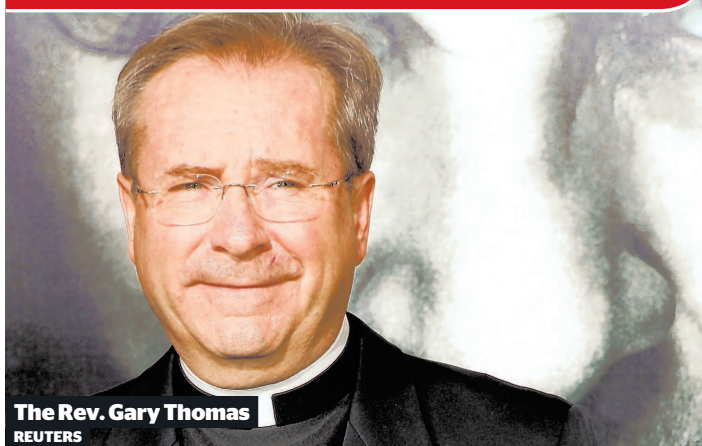
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# movies



The Rev. Gary Thomas  
REUTERS

## Film took its cues from real exorcist

### Los Angeles Times

The Rev. Gary Thomas served as an adviser on the set of "The Rite," drawing on his personal experience as an exorcist for the consulting job.

"I believe in the personification of evil," said the 53-year-old Roman Catholic priest from Sacred Heart parish in Saratoga, Calif.

Thomas is one of about 14 Vatican-certified exorcists working in the U.S. and the real-life counterpart to the character played by Colin O'Donoghue in the thriller opening Friday that also stars Anthony Hopkins. In the past four years, Thomas has seen about 100 people who felt that they were possessed by the devil.

"I have exorcised five," he said. "There are probably another two or three or four who I have been praying over regularly."

Thomas says that 80 percent of the people who come to him have been physically or sexually abused. Every time he's called about a person who might be possessed, he asks what kind of help the individual already has received. If he agrees to a meeting, he sits with the person for an interview about how the "demonic attachment" began and asks questions about family history.

"A lot of times it is mental health [issues]," he said.

If Thomas determines the person has a demonic attachment, he has a number of methods to free him or her before resorting to an exorcism.

"You never try that first," Thomas said. "You use other means of protection—sacraments, prayer, the Eucharist. What you want the person to do is say [the demon is] not welcome, it is not wanted, so go away. The person cooperates by staying close to God through prayer, through the sacraments."

The best way to agitate a demon, Thomas says, is to pray over the subject; the person's face, he explains, will begin to distort as the demon manifests itself, something that the filmmakers utilized for a sequence in "The Rite," which is based on the book written about Thomas called "The Rite: The Making of a Modern Exorcist."

"There is a point when Anthony Hopkins, you see his head look very unnatural in the way it is turning," Thomas said. "That's very normal. When you pray you hurt the demon, and the demon often-times will manifest itself in a very serpentine way."

## HOPKINS PLAYS **EVIL** ON SCREEN BUT CAN'T SAY WHETHER IT EXISTS

### The Philadelphia Inquirer

If one believes in Evil—yes, with a capital E—then the charmer whom Anthony Hopkins has played three times now, a Chianti-swilling, sweetbreads-savoring psychopath by the name of Hannibal Lecter, could be Evil's poster boy.

But Hopkins, who has channeled mad menace in films both good ("The Silence of the Lambs") and bad ("The Wolfman"), is not so sure that Evil of the biblical kind exists.

This weighty question came up in reference to "The Rite," a somewhat brainy thriller in which Hopkins portrays an exorcist. In his rectory in Rome, Hopkins' Father Lucas, an unorthodox Jesuit, goes nuclear on the Devil and his satanic underlings, grabbing hold of the possessed, spewing incantations, daring the demons to reveal themselves. The film opens Friday.

There was a real exorcist, a priest, on hand to offer counsel during the production, the 73-year-old Hopkins says.

"The Rite" centers on the relationship between his character and a young deacon (Colin O'Donoghue) who isn't sure, after all, that there is a God, or a Devil. Couldn't these troubled souls be suffering from dementia, or schizophrenia?

"I'm not sure what I believe," Hopkins said.

He used to be an atheist, he said. Now, "I don't know what the hell I believe. I think there's something at the back of everything. ... And I think the film presents an interesting debate, and I respect people's beliefs, whether they're atheists or believers. ...

"The only certainty is death," Hopkins said. "My only philosophy is that if this is it, if this is the only life there is, I may as well enjoy it. And if it's not—maybe there's something beyond this, and this is all a dream—then I may as well enjoy it as well. It's a double-win situation."

"The Rite," directed by Mikael Hefstrom, is not your standard-issue head-spinning, projectile-vomiting "Exorcist" affair, although it does inhabit dark,



Colin O'Donoghue (left) plays a priest who must perform an exorcism on his mentor, Anthony Hopkins, in "The Rite."

creepy cinematic space. Hopkins, in fact, was wary of the project at first ("I didn't want to play another spooky part"), but met with the Swedish director ("1408," "Derailed") and liked his thinking.

"He wanted to stand back a little and not make it a gory, weird movie," Hopkins said, "but just make it very real, and I said, 'That suits me fine.'"

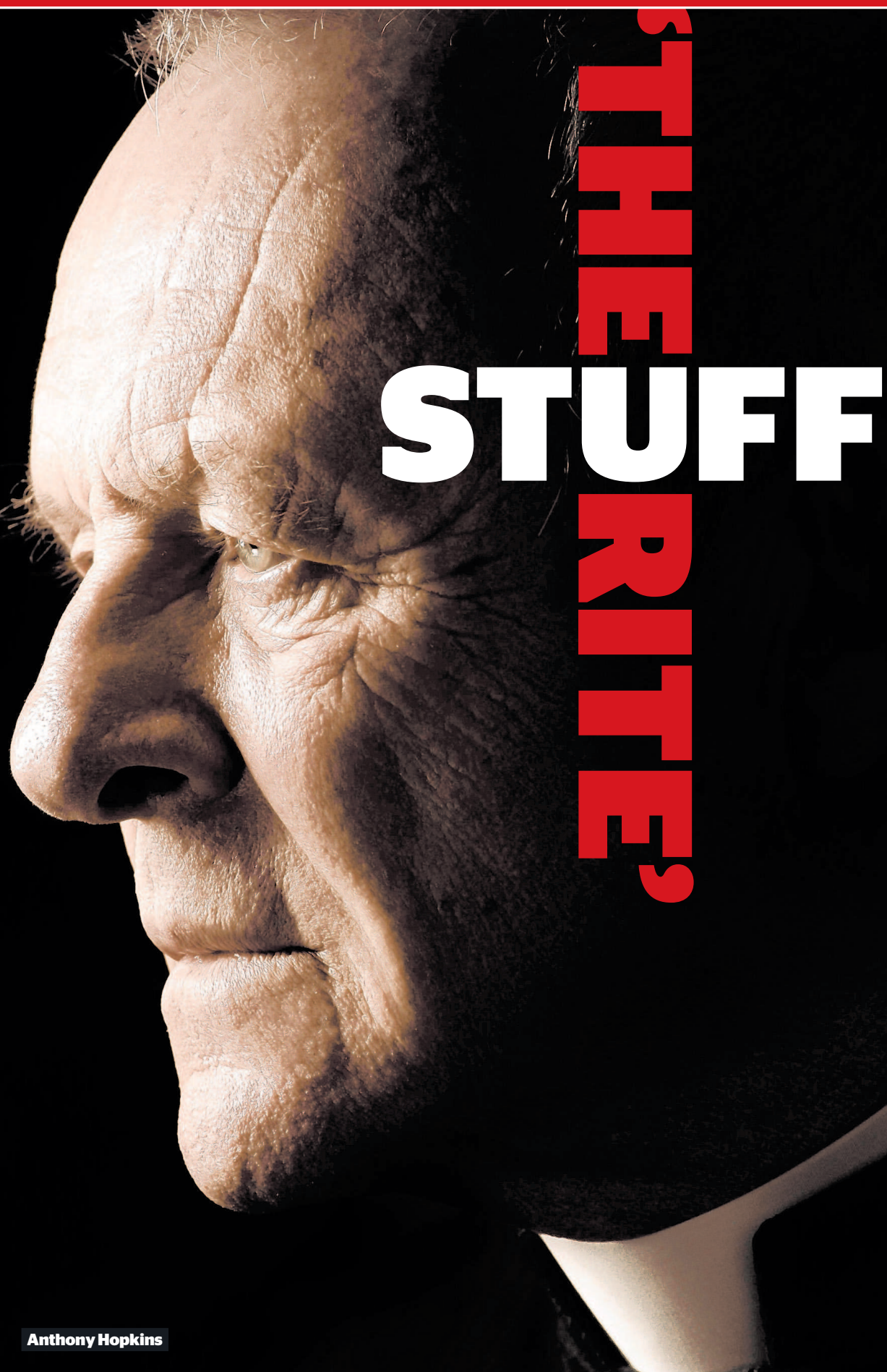
Hopkins, who lives near L.A. with his wife, the Colombian-born actress Stella Arroyave, paints and composes when he's not working. But he's been working a lot lately. He had a central role in Woody Allen's "You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger," shot in London, then went to Rome and Budapest for "The Rite," then back to L.A. where he suited up (in 30 pounds of Old Norse armor) to play Odin, "god of all things," in the adaptation of Marvel Comics' "Thor." It opens May 6.

"When I was a kid, in the postwar years, I used to read Captain Marvel, which was sent to me by an ex-GI, an American soldier," Hopkins said. "And I used to read Superman—I knew all that stuff—and I guess Thor is the same genre, is it? But I haven't kept up with comics. I know it's a whole cult, all over the world, Asia and Japan, so I'm thrilled to be in it."

"My only philosophy is that if this is it, if this is the only life there is, I may as well enjoy it."

—Anthony Hopkins





# THE STUFF RITE

Anthony Hopkins



Marta Gastini

'The Rite' PG-13



**Who's in it:** Colin O'Donoghue, Anthony Hopkins, Alice Braga, Ciaran Hinds, Rutger Hauer, Toby Jones

**What's it about:** Skeptical priest Michael Kovak (O'Donoghue) must perform an exorcism on his mentor, the exorcist Father Lucas (Hopkins), when Satan takes possession of the elderly cleric.

**Worth watching?**

"Playing a grizzled, whimsical Welsh exorcist plying his trade in the working class back alleys of Rome, Sir Tony [Hopkins] packed the prosciutto. This isn't just ham, served with a side of fava beans and a little Chianti. This is the good stuff, a hint of Hannibal Lecter in white collar ... [but] the little-known Irish actor [Colin O'Donoghue] is so stunningly uncharismatic that he kills whatever possibilities this picture had."

—ROGER MOORE, THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

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movies



Jason Statham attends an L.A. premiere of "The Mechanic." GETTY IMAGES

# Retooling 'Mechanic' for Jason Statham

## Newsday

After 17 years, director Simon West and star Jason Statham are bringing "The Mechanic," a pivotal 1972 Charles Bronson hit-man epic, back to the big screen Friday.

The big question for audiences is: How will action idol Statham fare in the Bronson role of a contract killer? Bronson, a box-office magnet in the '70s, died in 2003; Statham, whose career has included the "Transporter" films, "The Expendables" and "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," seems a likely heir apparent to the Bronson mantle of tight-lipped, hair-trigger movie machismo.

"I think Jason is the new Bronson," West said, "and will go on to world domination because there are so few guys who can do this kind of thing legitimately, or are willing to do it. As soon as someone becomes big in action, they want to do romantic comedy, or some, a worthy piece of drama. So I think Jason is probably going to dominate that world. And the older he gets, the better he gets."

Like Bronson, Statham plays Arthur Bishop, a contract killer with very particular tastes—Schubert on vinyl, a vintage Jaguar XKE in his garage—and no particular interest in whom he kills or why. Until he has to kill his only friend, Harry McKenna (Donald

Sutherland). Confronted by Harry's estranged son, Steve (Ben Foster), Arthur, prompted by guilt, takes on the younger man as an apprentice angel of death, setting the stage for a riot of action, and a denouement with classical echoes.

"Drama stays the same," Statham said. "People don't change, even if the technology does."

Statham said the remake puts greater emphasis on the characters and less on who is orchestrating the various killings.

"It's more about the son and his desire for revenge," he said, "and about my guilt, and me setting this kid up in a position to exact revenge. Will he find out it's me? Do I want him to know? Do I know that he knows? It's pretty cool."

So is Statham, at least regarding the Bronson legacy.

"It's always going to be compared to the original," he said of the remake. "You can't fill the Charles Bronson boots, so I wasn't going to try to do something that was unachievable. The movie's definitely been changed for today's audiences and there's a lot of different feel to it. At the same time, when I signed on to do the movie it was from the original, word for word."



# Calling it dumb fun is half right

Shhh! Arthur Bishop (Jason Statham) is a super-secret assassin, as if this guy could ever claim to have a job that didn't require him to bust skulls. After taking Steve (Ben Foster), the son of Arthur's longtime colleague and latest target, under his wing without really considering his options or possible repercussions, the guys deal with a lot of gunfire and suspicions of betrayal amid missions that never go as smoothly as planned.

**The verdict:** The first "Mechanic" had an unhurried European sensibility, like "The American" but without any detail of what it's like to be a killer. The new, no-reason-to-exist "Mechanic" mostly delivers savagely nasty violence with the moral excuse that Arthur and Steve's victims are worse people than the twosome and deserve this sort of ruthlessness. (Take that, you perverted, drug-addicted cult leader!) The opening scene effectively establishes a sense of the hand-to-hand dirty work that's required when you have to off someone quickly and quietly. The rest of the



Jason Statham in 'The Mechanic'  
CBS FILMS

movie resorts to routine explosions and bullets drilled into the bodies of generic villains. And there's still no reason to care: Foster's a compelling live wire but his permanent toughness

flattens his character. Arthur, a brutish blank slate as is, doesn't think twice about flip-flopping from "You should never kill with a motive" to, essentially, "Suck on this lethal revenge, punks."

## Bad movie with 'biutiful' acting

Things, uh, could be better for Uxbal (Javier Bardem), whose terminal cancer diagnosis comes on top of problems with

his bipolar estranged wife (Maricel Alvarez), who's sleeping with Uxbal's brother (Eduard Fernandez). Also: Uxbal communicates with the dead, confronts residual pain from his long-deceased father and oversees both illegal African immigrants and a sweat-shop run by gay Chinese men.

**The verdict:** Good performances accomplish nothing in a one-note movie that's enamored with its own despair. **MATT PAIS IS THE METROMIX MOVIES PRODUCER.**

'Biutiful' R

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- **The Rite** (PG-13) ♦ 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:15
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 1:20 P.M.
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20
- AMC Independent **The King's Speech** (R) 10:55, 1:40, 4:30, 7:25, 10:10
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 11:10, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 11:20, 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 10:40, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
- AMC Independent **The Fighter** (R) 11:00, 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
- AMC Independent **Black Swan** (R) ♦ 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35

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- **The King's Speech** (R) 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:20
- **Black Swan** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:45, 10:10
- **Another Year** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:45
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- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 12:20, 3:10, 6:10, 9:00
- **The Rite** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:50, 5:30, 8:15, 11:00
- **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 1:30, 2:15, 4:20, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45
- **The Mechanic** (R) 1:20, 3:50, 6:50, 9:30
- **The Mechanic** (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 12:40, 3:20, 6:20, 9:10
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 1:50
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 4:30, 7:15, 10:20
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 3:40, 9:50
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
- **The Fighter** (R) 2:00, 4:50, 6:30, 7:50, 9:20, 10:40
- **Tangled** (PG) 12:50, 3:30
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- **The King's Speech** (R) 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
- **The Fighter** (R) 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
- **Black Swan** (R) 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

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- AMC Independent **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 11:10, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
- AMC Independent **The Heart Specialist** (R) 11:35, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) ♦ 11:30, 2:15, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:55, 10:30
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) ♦ 12:05, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
- **Season of the Witch** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:35, 4:05, 6:35, 9:15
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) ♦ 10:45, 1:05, 3:30, 5:50, 8:05, 10:30
- **Tron: Legacy** (PG) 11:40, 3:05, 6:05, 9:20
- AMC Independent **Black Swan** (R) 10:40, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:05
- **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30
- **Yogi Bear** (PG) 11:20, 1:40, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35

### GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street  
(312) 846-2800

- **Repulsion** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **Shoah Part 2** (NR) 6:15 P.M.
- **Queen of the Sun** (NR) 8:00 P.M.

### LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago  
(773) 252-0628

- **Tangled** (PG) 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45
- **The Social Network** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
- **Tron: Legacy** (PG) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 10:00

### MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago  
(773) 871-6604

- **Nora's Will** (NR) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
- **The Illusionist** (PG) 1:30, 3:20, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
- **Maniac** (R) 12:00 Midnight
- **Black Heaven** (NR) 12:00 Midnight

### PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago  
(888) AMC-4FUN  
Show times change daily

- AMC Independent **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 10:00
- AMC Independent **Dhobi Ghat** (Mumbai Diaries) (NR) 2:15, 8:00, 10:35
- **The Social Network** (PG-13) 2:25, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25
- AMC Independent **No One Killed Jessica** (NR) 4:30 P.M.
- AMC Independent **127 Hours** (R) 2:45, 5:15, 7:30, 10:15

### RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago  
(888) AMC-4FUN  
Show times change daily

- **The Mechanic** (R) ♦ 10:10, 12:35, 3:05, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00
- AMC Independent **Biutiful** (R) 10:00, 1:15, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00
- **The Rite** (PG-13) ♦ 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
- AMC Independent **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 10:10, 12:45, 3:20, 5:50, 8:35, 11:25
- AMC Independent **The Company Men** (R) ♦ 11:20, 2:05, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35
- AMC Independent **The Way Back** (PG-13) 11:45, 5:40, 11:15
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 12:00, 2:45, 5:25, 8:15, 11:10
- **No Strings Attached** (R) ♦ 11:00, 1:45, 4:25, 7:15, 9:55
- AMC Independent **Blue Valentine** (R) ♦ 11:25, 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:50
- AMC Independent **The King's Speech** (R) ♦ 10:50, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:20
- AMC Independent **The King's Speech** (R) 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:30, 11:20
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 10:15, 1:15, 4:05, 6:45, 9:40
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 10:50
- AMC Independent **Barney's Version** (R) 10:05, 1:10, 4:20, 7:40, 11:05
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 11:15, 4:40, 10:15
- AMC Independent **Country Strong** (PG-13) 1:55, 7:20
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:25, 4:05, 6:40, 9:30
- AMC Independent **Black Swan** (R) ♦ 10:40, 1:14, 1:30, 4:15, 5:30, 7:05, 8:10, 9:45, 10:45
- AMC Independent **The Fighter** (R) 11:10, 1:50, 4:50, 7:35, 10:20
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 9:50 P.M.
- **Tangled 3D** (PG) 11:05, 1:35
- AMC Independent **127 Hours** (R) 10:15, 12:40, 3:10, 5:45, 8:25, 10:55
- AMC Independent **Inside Job** (PG-13) 2:50, 8:40

### SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **The Mechanic** (R) 11:55, 2:35, 5:25, 8:10, 10:55
- AMC Independent **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 10:40, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
- **The Rite** (PG-13) 10:35, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
- AMC Independent **The Company Men** (R) 11:10, 2:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:35
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 11:45, 2:40, 5:30, 8:30, 11:10
- AMC Independent **The Way Back** (PG-13) 10:10, 12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:35
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 8:20, 11:15
- AMC Independent **Blue Valentine** (R) 11:05, 2:05, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05
- AMC Independent **The King's Speech** (R) 10:05, 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 11:15, 2:10, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 12:05, 3:10, 6:15, 9:20
- **The Green Hornet: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG-13) 10:20, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20
- **Season of the Witch** (PG-13) 8:25, 11:05
- AMC Independent **Country Strong** (PG-13) 1:15, 7:45
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 7:50, 10:45
- AMC Independent **Black Swan** (R) 10:45, 1:35, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15
- AMC Independent **The Fighter** (R) 10:00, 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:55
- **Yogi Bear** (PG) 10:30, 12:55, 3:30, 5:55
- **Tangled** (PG) 10:00, 12:25, 3:00, 5:35
- AMC Independent **127 Hours** (R) 10:25, 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:15

### WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **Sanctum** (R) Advance Tickets Available
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:10
- **The Rite** (PG-13) 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
- **The Mechanic** (R) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:20
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
- **The Fighter** (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50
- **The Company Men** (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 10:05
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:00, 4:50, 6:50, 9:30, 10:15
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 2:10, 7:30
- **Rabbit Hole** (PG-13) 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40

### SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago  
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **The Mechanic** (R) 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15
- AMC Independent **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 11:05, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45
- **The Rite** (PG-13) 11:10, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
- AMC Independent **The Heart Specialist** (R) 7:50, 10:25
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:05, 7:05, 9:40
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
- AMC Independent **The King's Speech** (R) 11:20, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
- **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) 11:05, 1:15, 3:30, 5:40
- **Season of the Witch** (PG-13) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 11:25, 2:05, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35
- AMC Independent **Black Swan** (R) 11:55, 2:35, 5:20, 7:55, 10:35
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:20
- **Yogi Bear 3D** (PG) 11:35, 1:40, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45

### SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)

4779 W. Cermak, Cicero  
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **The Mechanic** (R) 11:55, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
- AMC Independent **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
- **The Rite** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:40, 5:15, 8:00, 10:45
- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 12:20, 3:00, 6:05, 9:10
- **No Strings Attached** (R) 11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:25
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10
- **Season of the Witch** (PG-13) 11:35, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00
- **Gulliver's Travels 3D** (PG) 11:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30
- **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:35, 4:55, 7:25, 9:40
- AMC Independent **Black Swan** (R) 11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:55
- **Yogi Bear 3D** (PG) 10:50, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:15
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 7:30, 10:20
- **The Tourist** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
- AMC Independent **The Fighter** (R) 8:20 P.M.
- **Tangled** (PG) 10:45, 1:15, 3:40, 6:00

### SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago  
(312) 564-2104

- **From Prada to Nada** (PG-13) ♦ 10:40, 1:20, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50
- **The Mechanic** (R) ♦ 10:15, 12:40, 3:20, 6:10, 8:40, 11:15
- **The Rite** (PG-13) ♦ 10:10, 12:20, 1:10, 3:10, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:50, 10:00, 11:40
- **No Strings Attached** (R) ♦ 11:20, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
- **The Way Back** (PG-13) ♦ 10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
- **The Green Hornet 3D** (PG-13) ♦ 10:00, 12:50, 3:40, 6:30, 9:30
- **Blue Valentine** (R) ♦ 11:40, 2:30, 5:15, 8:15, 11:00
- **The Dilemma** (PG-13) ♦ 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
- **The King's Speech** (R) 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:20, 7:30, 10:40
- **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 10:05, 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:40
- **The Fighter** (R) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45
- **Black Swan** (R) 11:50, 2:40, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
- **127 Hours** (R) 10:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
- **The Company Men** (R) 11:10, 2:10, 5:00, 8:00, 10:55

### VIP Premium 21+

- **The Rite** (PG-13) ♦ VIP Premium 21+ 12:20, 3:10, 6:00, 8:50, 11:40
- **No Strings Attached** (R) ♦ VIP Premium 21+ 11:20, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

### OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street, Oak Park  
(800) 444-FILM #560

- **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) 4:20
- **Blue Valentine** (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- **True Grit** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50
- **The King's Speech** (R





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# TWITTER REVIEWS

RedEye and Metromix offer the quickest movie reviews in Chicago—140 characters to be exact. And you write them. Send your review to our movie guy, Matt Pais, at [twitter.com/mattpais](https://twitter.com/mattpais) and let the debate begin. Please limit your reviews to ones still in theaters.



## THE FIGHTER

**@alan\_aka\_mig:** the fighter: a humble, honest story of an overlooked boxer that balanced family business & the game. good recession flick.

**@chrispetlak:** saw #TheFighter last night and it was fantastic. An All-Star cast, Wahlberg at his best & Christian Bale is in his own league

**@Modahnik:** The Fighter was great. I was reluctant 2 c it, but the acting was aahhhmazing. 5 thumbs up



## « NO STRINGS ATTACHED

**@iNancy75:** No Strings Attached was funny with subtle romance. If you're up for another love story, this is the one.

**@nayeli06:** I saw no strings attached ... Loved it, best movie in a while. There was never a dull moment. I was always laughing; thumbs up :)

**@LizAudre:** No Strings Attached: Surprising that this was Portman's 1st romcom and Kutcher's...? Too many.

## THE KING'S SPEECH

**@katiekapoww:** The King's Speech is sublime. Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush are in perfect Oscar form.

## THE GREEN HORNET

**@SpartanBlues:** Green Hornet 3D. Action scenes were crispy, cameos by Edward Furlong and James Franco? Can't go wrong, except for Rogen's Dialogue

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PRODUCED BY BEAU FLYNN / TRIPP VINSON DIRECTED BY MIKAEL HÄFSTRÖM

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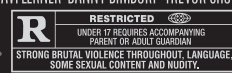
# THE MECHANIC

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Around the world  
with the Lost Girls

The Lost Girls—Jennifer Baggett (blue shirt), Amanda Pressner (purple) and Holly Corbett (green)—with the Yagua tribe in Peru.



Corbett holds Esther, an orphan who lives at Sister Freda's Clinic in Kenya.



Pressner sits with children in Laos. She and two of her friends quit their jobs to travel around the world for a year. Now the three are going around the country to urge others to follow in their footsteps. [IMAGESFROMLOSTGIRLSWORLD.COM](http://IMAGESFROMLOSTGIRLSWORLD.COM)

# Find your inner Lost Girl

## Traveling trio urges other young women to explore the world

By Ryan Smith

FOR REDEYE

Tired of running the rat race in New York City, Amanda Pressner and two of her friends quit their jobs and embarked on a yearlong, 60,000-mile trip around the world.

Their book, "The Lost Girls: Three Friends, Four Continents, One Unconventional Detour Around the World," and an ABC pilot based on their adventures might sound a little bit like "Eat Pray Love" meets "Sex and the City 2," but the trio had more than indulgent self-discovery in mind. Their blog, [lostgirlsworld.com](http://lostgirlsworld.com), is an online community meant to empower 20-something women desiring to travel.

Pressner, who will speak this weekend at the Chicago Travel Adventure Show, talked to RedEye about the book, the pilot and how other people can get lost like she did.

### AMANDA PRESSNER

**What:** The author will present "Get Lost! How to Escape the Cubicle and Take the Trip of a Lifetime."

**When:** 1:45-2:45 p.m. Saturday; 1:15-2:15 p.m. Sunday, book signing follows

**Where:** Chicago Travel Adventure Show, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont

### Why did you decide to take a year off your job to travel?

Jennifer [Baggett], Holly [Corbett] and I had reached a crossroads in our lives. I was a magazine writer, and I was going crazy working 14 hours a day. Jen was struggling with relationships. All three of us felt like the best thing to do was take a step back and travel extensively. Myself, I was tired of just focusing on achieving and trying to get a bigger and better name on my business card. I was like, "What am I striving for?" I didn't want to miss out on my 20s and miss having this kind of adventure.

### How difficult was it to leave your jobs?

It was very scary to think about jumping off the career path. ... But I didn't want to defer to that fear. Jen and Holly had similar feelings and luckily we had the support of each other.

### Where did you go and what did you do?

We hopscotched around and did South America and visited Brazil and Peru and Bolivia. We went to Kenya, spent a month volunteering and exploring there, and even watched teens there perform a play that we'd written. We explored India, spent a week in Dubai and went all over Southeast Asia, like Vietnam and Thailand. In Australia, I learned to surf, went on scuba trips, learned to sail and explored islands.

### How could other 20-somethings pull this kind of trip off? Do you have to be rich?

No, we spent about \$18,000 each [for] our entire year of traveling and we didn't do anything very glamorous. We flew to four continents and we didn't stay in sketchy places, but we only spent about \$30 a day. It

was low to the ground, but not uncomfortable. You can do a trip like ours for less. A friend of mine left with \$3,000 and did it for seven months.

### Is there an ideal time for 20-somethings to travel?

One is right after you graduate from school when you can give yourself three or six months to a year to go before you look for jobs. Employers won't mind if you're 23 instead of 22. Another time is after you've established yourself, after maybe four or five years in your career when it seems like there might be a natural break. Also, if you're going into something like law school, you might want to find out if they will let you defer and come back.

### Jerry Bruckheimer is making a pilot for ABC based on "The Lost Girls." Whom would you like to play you in the TV show?

I think someone like Blake Lively from "Gossip Girl." She'd be fun.

RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.





**show patrol**

**CURT WAGNER**  
cwwagner@tribune.com

**'Mega Python vs. Gatoroid'**  
8 p.m. Saturday, Syfy



# Meet the mega friends

Debbie Gibson and her '80s teen pop rival Tiffany spent their first day on the set of "Mega Python vs. Gatoroid" covered in whipped cream.

"We just had crazy good fun," Gibson said during a joint interview last week. "At one point we were ducked under a table slathered in whipped cream and banana cream pie and we looked at each other and went, 'What? What is going on here?'"

It's the showcase scene for the schlocky B-movie that airs Saturday on Syfy in which they play rivals with different ideas about how to save the Florida Everglades. Their struggle sets off a feeding frenzy involving giant pythons and oversized alligators.

Viewers likely will forget the battle of the monstrous beasts about halfway through the movie when the two women confront each other at a party.

It's a knockdown, hair-pulling, pie-throwing slap fest that will have fans simultaneously cheering and groaning.

If you believe speculation that animosity existed between the once big-haired pop singers with hits such as "I Think We're Alone Now" (Tiffany) and "Only in My Dreams" (Gibson), you'd think they found it therapeutic to bury the hatchet during the fight scene. The women say no such rivalry every existed.

"I think it'll be more therapeutic for people to watch

who have fantasized about that happening," said Gibson, 40. "I know that this is not what you want to hear, but I really never did have the desire to slap Tiffany in the face."

According to Tiffany, 39, they had never spent much time together in the past. The movie gave them an opportunity to finally get to know each other, and "we actually are developing a friendship."

It's not the first time Syfy has tapped the singers for movie roles. Gibson appeared in "Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus," while Tiffany starred in "Mega Piranha."

They were destined to star opposite each other.

"I kept joking that there were a bunch of men sitting around at Syfy saying, 'We want Tiffany and Debbie Gibson to rub whip cream on each other's breasts. How can we make that happen? Well, we'll create a movie around it,'" Gibson said. "And Tiffany has fabulous breasts so it was perfect."

Read more about the two at [showpatrolTV.com](http://showpatrolTV.com).



**Debbie Gibson (left) and Tiffany**

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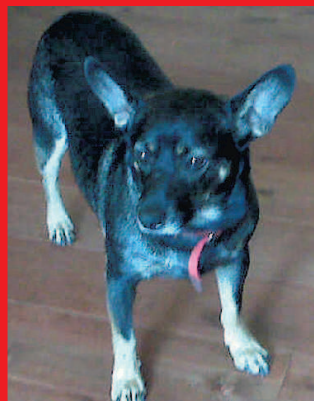
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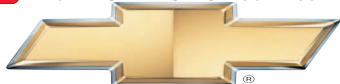


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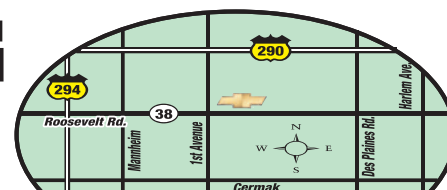
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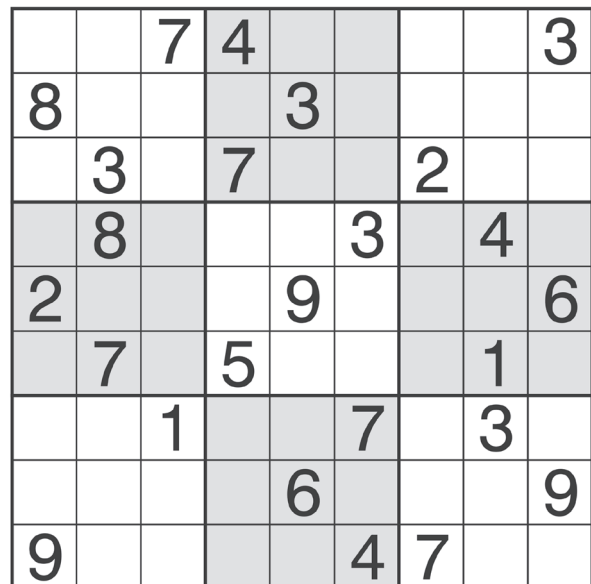


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6	5	1	4	2	3	7	9	8
4	7	9	6	5	8	2	1	3
2	3	8	9	7	1	5	4	6
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	7	4
9	4	5	3	8	7	6	2	1
3	1	7	2	4	6	8	5	9
5	8	4	7	3	9	1	6	2
7	6	2	8	1	4	9	3	5
1	9	3	5	6	2	4	8	7

### THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS

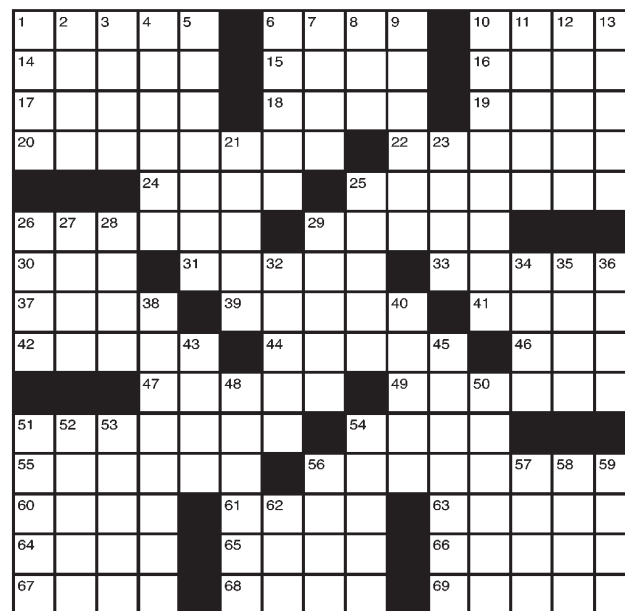
RUG		OCCUR	POSE
ONES	THOSE	IOWA	
WINE	HAVEN	CZAR	
TENDER	EST	NETS	
AIRY	FBI		
SMITES	AFRICANS		
WAVES	TRIED	SET	
ELIS	RAISE	MIRE	
ATE	WELSH	SUAVER	
RADIANCE	BANNER		
DYE	CARD		
COPE	GALATIANS		
OLLA	ABOUT	NAPA	
DIAL	DENSE	EVER	
EONS	EDGER	EW	

### ACROSS

- 1 Snoozed
- 6 Fellow
- 10 Lunch spot
- 14 over; remain  
fluttering above
- 15 Invisible emanation
- 16 Foreboding sign
- 17 "Aida" or "Carmen"
- 18 Tennis court dividers
- 19 Period before Easter
- 20 Keeps trying
- 22 Stupor
- 24 Mishmash
- 25 One who starts  
an institution
- 26 over; flipped
- 29 Rowed
- 30 for the road;  
extra drink
- 31 Respond to a stimulus
- 33 Amounts owed
- 37 Evergreen tree
- 39 Great fear
- 41 Not phony
- 42 Gem
- 44 Bundled hay
- 46 Tavern drink
- 47 African nation
- 49 Arrested
- 51 Counselor
- 54 Harbor bird
- 55 Controlled; bridled
- 56 Church of England  
member
- 60 Capable
- 61 Italy's dollar before  
the euro
- 63 Steer clear of
- 64 Liver secretion
- 65 Charitable donation
- 66 Transmits
- 67 Night twinkler
- 68 Fit snugly together
- 69 Lock of hair

### DOWN

- 1 Store
- 2 Easy gait



- |                                    |                                   |                                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 Always                           | 25 Deadly                         | 48 Chaos                         |
| 4 Human being                      | 26 Surpasses                      | 50 Tiny, thin slice              |
| 5 Mobile home                      | 27 College credit                 | 51 Saudis, e.g.                  |
| 6 Major division of<br>a long poem | 28 City in Nevada                 | 52 Left-hand<br>ledger entry     |
| 7 Colors                           | 29 Pacific                        | 53 Country estate                |
| 8 Mr. Linkletter                   | 32 Shelter of vines               | 54 Grind the teeth               |
| 9 Parish leader                    | 34 Outscore                       | 56 Upper limbs                   |
| 10 Kitchen sieve                   | 35 Story                          | 57 Walking stick                 |
| 11 Improve                         | 36 Luge vehicle                   | 58 together; combines            |
| 12 Chain-link barrier              | 38 Train driver                   | 59 Scottish<br>monster's lake    |
| 13 Go into                         | 40 Get rid of ants<br>and roaches | 62 Suffix for text<br>or percent |
| 21 One-; unilateral                | 43 Relaxation                     |                                  |
| 23 Regretted                       | 45 Least interesting              |                                  |

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## FLATTER YOURSELF!

WHICH HOLLYWOOD HOTTIES WOULD MUSIC LEGENDS PICK TO PLAY THEM?

By Ariel Alexovich | REDEYE

Does Halle Berry resemble a young Aretha Franklin? We won't pass judgment, but Aretha sure thinks so.

The Queen of Soul suggested earlier this month that Berry should play her in the movie adaptation of her memoir, "Aretha: From These Roots." Berry, however, seemed to politely decline the offer at last week's Golden Globes, telling E!, "Someone should tell Aretha that I can't do her justice."

But Franklin insists. In a telegram—yes, telegram—to Wendy Williams, which Williams read aloud on her talk show, Franklin said Berry "shouldn't underestimate her own talent."

We can't say we blame Aretha. Who wouldn't want to cast the absolute hottest person possible in the biopic of her life? The whole situation, however, makes us consider who other music legends would insist best capture their essence.



Halle Berry  
Aretha Franklin

GETTY IMAGES/FILE PHOTOS



### Steven Tyler

**Why Steven wants him:** Like Tyler, Efron represents the best in abs and blond highlights.



### Zac Efron

**Why Zac won't do it:** Still trying to get away from the whole musical scene.



### Tim McGraw

**Why Tim wants him:** Already buds after "Country Strong."



### Garrett Hedlund

**Why Garrett won't do it:** Holding out for "Tron" franchise.



### Alice Cooper

**Why Alice wants him:** Plays up his intellectual side—remember, he's the one who taught us the history of Milwaukee in "Wayne's World."



### Andrew Garfield

**Why Andrew won't do it:** He's willing to wear funky costumes for "Spider-Man" but never has shown an inclination for face paint.



### Courtney Love

**Why Courtney wants her:** Admires her eyeliner skills.



### Taylor Momsen

**Why Taylor won't do it:** Refusal to believe she didn't invent garbage-chic herself.



### Janet Jackson

**Why Janet wants her:** Both can relate to the stress of having more famous family members.



### Willow Smith

**Why Willow won't do it:** Too busy with Jay-Z's "Annie" remake.



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red hot



Calling all angels! The cast for ABC's new "Charlie's Angels" has been picked, **deadline.com** reports. The trio consists of Minka Kelly ("Friday Night Lights," left), Rachael Taylor ("Transformers," center) and Annie Ilonczeh ("General Hospital," right). Former "Angels" movie star Drew Barrymore is leading the project as a co-executive producer.



## THE DIGIT

5,800

That's the approximate number of members of the new Facebook campaign to get Chris Colfer from "Glee" to sing a Scissor Sisters song on the Fox show.



## Back on the horse

The Old Spice guy is back! In a preview for a campaign promoting a line of fresh scents from around the world, Isaiah Mustafa invites viewers to "try staring into my striking brown eyes and looking at them as I currently remember [the ads] in my brain." The video can be found on YouTube, and the ad campaign kicks off Feb. 7, according to Time. Good luck looking away.



## Sorry, Charlie

No, you're not reading an old Red Hot page—Charlie Sheen has been hospitalized again, his publicist confirmed Thursday to

The Associated Press. The actor's rep said Sheen was suffering from "severe abdominal pains." The trip to the hospital came the day after Sheen's "Two and a Half Men" co-star Jon Cryer joked on "Conan" that because of Sheen's behavior, "I'm checking TMZ, as I do every day, to know if I have to go to work at all." Ouch.



## Meyers masterpiece

Here's your weekend update: An oil painting of "SNL" comedian Seth Meyers is for sale in downtown Chicago, according to **wbez.org**. It's worth \$5,500, according to Don Sayles, who runs Classic Portrait Source. According to the site, Meyers posed "ironically" for the painting, then decided the price was too high. So the painting now hangs at the Macy's at Randolph and State streets.

## Foot loose

Sexy "Vampire Diaries" star Ian Somerhalder (left) has a borderline-unsexy hidden talent. He reveals in the latest Cosmo: "I can write with absolutely perfect penmanship with my feet. If I broke both my arms, I could still write a girl a love letter using just my toes." Um, ladies, just don't scratch-and-sniff the paper ...



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS